214864

JOHN BULL

Vol. XI. No. 291. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1911. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

FOOTBALL PRIZES OF MAMMOTH SIZES.

SEE PAGE 958

BARGAINS IN

SECOND-HAND FURNITURE.

TO BE SOLD PRIVATELY BY

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

The following goods having been removed from Holland Road, Kensington: Glenheim Mansions, Lisson Grove; Summerville Road, Thames Ditton; Marlbox Street, W.; Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead; Westland, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Theobald's Park, and elsewhere, are offered at half the original cost, and comprise, amongst other articles too numerous to mention, the following general household effects. Bedroom furniture—6 oak bedroom suites, from £4 15s.; 3 white enamelled bedroom suites, from £4 4s.; 5 solid oak bedroom suites, with large wardrobe and dressing table, with side cheval glasses, £5 17s. 6d.; walnut bedroom suite, reflex mirrors to dressing table, £8 8s.; an inlaid Sheraton design mahogany bedroom suite, £7 17s. 6d.; a similar suite, £10 15s.; 4 ft. to 6 in. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, oval glass door to wardrobe, 12 guineas; 4 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with Beaconsfield wardrobe, £15 10s.; 6 ft. mahogany bedroom suite, with 2 oval doors to wardrobe, reflex mirrors to dressing table, 19 guineas; 6 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, fitted drawers and trays, £4 guineas; 6 ft. Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests, from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads, from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 25s.; 2 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 45s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas, and several others up to 18 guineas. The Dining Room furniture comprises fumed oak dining room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, etc., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate glass back, oxydised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite in green pegamoid, £5 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining room suite, £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table, £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d. dining table to match, 4 guineas; Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards, under 8 guineas. The Drawing Room furniture comprises very fine drawing room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satinwood finish drawing room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas; Chesterfield drawing room suite, with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £23 10s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marqueterie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas; bold cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table cover, 8 guineas; Chesterfields, from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables, from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 70 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel overmantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 30 guineas; pair 9-light candelabra, 6 guineas; 5-light candelabra, 10 guineas; clock in ormula case, £8 15s.; piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto, by Carl Strauss, 20 guineas; several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Beckstein, Blüthner, etc. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey, and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock, from £2 15s. Hall Furniture—Hall stands, from 2s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas; large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, etc.

Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods delivered Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 8, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.,

one door from Oxford Street, three minutes from Tottenham Court Road, and Oxford Circus, and adjoining all principal Tubes. Telephone 1307 Central. £10000 worth of second-hand furniture always on show. Catalogues now ready. Special attention given to Export Orders.

A . . JOURNAL SORELY . NEEDED .

£1,000 WORTH OF LAW FOR 1D.

The Lay Lawyer

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

EVERY MONDAY. — ONE PENNY.

This unique Journal will make its public appearance early in the New Year.

Its object will be to keep the Public, as far as possible, out of the hands of the Lawyers, by giving sound legal advice upon the various difficulties and doubts which perplex the citizen almost every day of his life, and which, owing to the tendency of modern legislation, are ever increasing in extent.

A little timely knowledge of one's rights—a little timely advice before things have gone too far—will often save the expense and annoyance of a law suit—especially if couched in simple, common-sense language which the ordinary individual can understand—instead of the ponderous jargon of the professional Lawyer.

PUBLISHERS:

ODHAMS LIMITED, Long Acre, London, W.C.

JUNON

BUST DEVELOPER

is a wonderful preparation that really does develop the bust.

Simple in its use and action—one can carry out the treatment in one's own private room—without trouble or inconvenience of any kind.

Its low price places a perfect development within the reach of all, and any woman who has hitherto been secretly worried about her shrunken and unhealthy appearance should commence this treatment at once.

Send **5/6** and this new and unfailing preparation will be mailed you by return, post free, in plain and sealed wrapper.

Junon Bust Developer is prepared only by the Proprietors and is GUARANTEED HARMLESS.

JUNON Hair TONIC

Restores gloss and Brilliancy—stops hair falling—nourishes and strengthens the roots—removes dandruff—positively makes the hair grow—is a beneficial and pleasant dressing for daily use.

Recommended for use in conjunction with JUNON Hair Stains.

Two kinds: Greasy for dry and brittle hair: Non-greasy for greasy hair.

Post **1/- & 2/6** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Hair STAIN

This is the only permanent and really satisfactory one-solution hair stain—absolutely harmless—perfectly natural tints—easily applied in one operation—defies detection—does not stain the skin.

In Eight Standard Shades:—Black, Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Chestnut, Golden Chestnut, Light Golden Chestnut, Golden, Light Golden.

Post **1/- & 2/9** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Ltd., Marsham St., Westminster, S.W.

J.E. & Co.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XI. No. 291. Week ending Saturday, December 30th, 1911. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.

***All editorial inquiries* MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.**

TO ADVERTISERS.

All applications for advertising spaces to be made to Messrs. Odhams Ltd., Advertising Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom.		Foreign and Colonial.	
1 year	6s. 6d.	1 year	8s. 8d.
6 months	3s. 3d.	6 months	4s. 4d.
3 months	1s. 8d.	3 months	2s. 2d.

Money Orders, etc., to be made payable to Odhams Limited, and forwarded to Publishing Department, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

TO READERS ABROAD.

JOHN BULL *is on sale at all Bookstalls and Newsagents throughout Great Britain and Ireland and the Continent as follows:—Paris, at the Railway Stations—Nord, Ouest, P.L.M., Orleans, l'Est: the principal Kiosques on the Boulevards, etc.: Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's Bookshop, 248, rue de Rivoli: Libraries—Timotei, rue Castiglione: Brentano's, Avenue de l'Opera: Byron, rue Castiglione: Galignani, 224, rue de Rivoli: Anglaise, Avenue Victor Hugo: Charruet, rue d'Isly: Lebeau, Avenue Kleber: F. Tennant Pain, 18, rue Favart, Wholesale and Continental Representative. Railway Bookstalls and principal Libraries at Marseilles, Hyeres, Cannes, St. Raphael, Nice, Beaulieu, Monaco, Monte Carlo, Menione. In India, A. H. Wheeler & Co., and all their railway bookstalls. It is also obtainable through Messrs. Gordon & Gotch's Agencies in the Colonies.*

The John Bull League.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT

WILL BE HELD AT THE

GOLDEN LION HOTEL, LOWER BRIGGATE,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1912, at 8 p.m.

Chairman: Reginald Knight, Esq.

ADMISSION FREE

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

A HAPPY NEW YEAR—

To all of you. Thank Heaven it is Leap Year. Let us leap.

1912.

There are many evidences that the new year is destined to be a memorable one. We are afraid, too, that we must add "a bad one." The German crisis will become more acute, labour unrest will spread, and Home trade will decline. Not a very pleasant prophecy, you will say; but why fool ourselves?

MR. SPEAKER SPEAKS.

In opening a new parish-room at Blaxhall, Suffolk, Mr. Lowther said that the villagers would have the advantage of extending their newspaper reading and "*comparing different accounts of the same incident according to the complexion of the newspapers.*" They would "also have an opportunity of hearing arguments, which was the only way of arriving at a sound judgment." Mr. Lowther knows the game!

WILY WINSTON!

"Coming events cast their shadows before." We wonder if Mr. Churchill had any idea that if he retained the post of Home Secretary it was more than likely he would have to request the War Office to order the troops to Dundee to keep his own constituents in order? As things have turned out he can say: "It wasn't me!"

PERSONAL POLITICS.

These will undergo a great change. Mr. Asquith is rapidly tiring—and no wonder! Few outside the inner circle of political life knew the strain he has endured, and the splendid patriotism and courage with which he has endured it. Mr. Lloyd George is making the pace too hot for Sir Edward Grey and Lord Haldane and Mr. Churchill, now that he is in close personal touch with national defence, is "thrown back" to Imperialism. Ramsay Macdonald, never a real Labour man, is gradually selling his little band to the Government, and only the Socialist section of it will survive. F. E. Smith, now on the Front Bench, will soon be the Churchill of the Opposition, and there are more unlikely things than that, given the survival for a few years of the Party game, he and Winston will be running the show between them. Mr. Bonar Law's real place in the picture is that of the, perhaps unconscious, pioneer of a Business Government.

LEGAL CHANGES.

Rufus Isaacs will shortly become Lord Chief Justice—and a fine Chief he will make. Mr. Buckmaster will be Solicitor-General until Sir John Simon's health compels him to relinquish the political arena (in which he is a demon for work) for the more restful atmosphere of the Bench—when Mr. Hemmerde will probably come into his own. Mr. Athelstan Jones, long overlooked, will get promotion. Mr. Justice Lawrance, Mr. Justice Channell, Lord Justice Vaughan Williams, and at least one Chancery Judge, are all likely to go, and Mr. Rowlatt, the present Attorney-General's "devil," will be one of the new judges, his place being taken by Mr. Schwabe. That is all, at present

THE SANDRINGHAM SCANDAL.

We asked last week why the Rev. F. P. Farrar had been allowed to escape. Judging from an official notice since issued, are the authorities asking themselves the same question? The individual "wanted" is described as "aged about 40, 5ft. 8in., hair very fair, clean shaven, eyes blue, very good set of teeth, slightly turns in his toes when walking, but takes long strides, has peculiar habit of twirling eyes when speaking, very fond of amateur theatricals." The idea of identifying a fugitive from justice by his love of amateur theatricals is worthy of the best traditions of Scotland Yard. Is he also very fond of dancing? However, we have no doubt that the forty-eight hours' start which was given the reverend rascal has successfully placed him beyond the jurisdiction.

Runciman Still Visiting.

At the time of writing, Mr. Runciman, the new Minister of Agriculture, is still travelling. With unabated zeal, he is going from small holding to small holding, and has now got as far as Evesham. How long the tour is to last is not stated, but we understand the official view is that it is better that the head of the Board of Agriculture should stay away till he learns the elements of his job, than that he should turn up at 10 a.m. every morning to interfere with a permanent staff. Rumour has it that our right hon. friend can now detect the difference between manure and mushrooms—a thing which requires a bit of practice, so far as the eye is concerned.

Those Lawyers!

There can be no doubt about it—*The Lay Lawyer* is badly needed. This from the report of a recent case:

> If the agreement was not set aside, then, of course, this prosecution would have to go on. Mr. Gore-Browne, K.C., advised that on the cases submitted to him the agreement must be set aside. Mr. Astbury, K.C., counsel on the other side, however, had given an opinion in a contrary direction. (Laughter.)
>
> Mr. Travers Humphreys: Of course. When learned counsel on one side gives his opinion, counsel on the other side naturally takes the opposite view. (Laughter.)
>
> Sir W. Treloar (wearily): Yes; I have heard of these things. (Laughter.)

All very funny, no doubt—and only the unhappy parties to the case would fail to appreciate the joke.

The New Uncrowned King.

The following appeared recently in the *Star*:—

> Mr. Lloyd George Shopping.
>
> Amongst those who were seen doing Christmas shopping at Messrs. Whiteley's handsome new premises yesterday were Mr. Lloyd George and his little daughter and Princess Mary.

The question of precedence between the daughters of crowned and uncrowned kings is thus finally settled.

An Independent Indian.

The Gaekwar of Baroda, who successfully resisted His Majesty's writ of summons addressed to him as co-respondent in a Divorce Court drama—or would it have been a comedy?—on the ground that he is a ruling prince, had, it will be remembered, at Delhi previously asserted his independence to the King in person in a manner for which he afterwards apologised. Possibly the Gaekwar is desirous of emulating Lovelace, who declared:

> If I have freedom in my Love,
> And in my soul am free,
> Angels alone that soar above
> Enjoy such liberty.

"Is Visions About?"

What is this—a whisky advertisement in the *Daily News*? True, it is Irish whisky, with "green label—mellow, light and digestive." Sounds like cocoa. Come, come Cadbury—let us have some racing news.

The Garden of the Strand.

The botanists will soon have to look elsewhere for their curiosities, for the Australian Commonwealth Government are purchasing the Strand-Aldwych site in London for £364,000. No more, therefore, will the largest advertisement in the world crown the floral glories of the finest site in Europe. Probably in the whole history of botany weeds have never found costlier roothold, and twenty years hence a potted specimen of one of them, properly labelled and described, ought to be worth its weight in gold, as an historical and horticultural curiosity. As to the original John Bull posters—well, no sum will be enough to buy them.

Dismal Dean and Mr. Plowden.

Commenting at the dinner of the Head Chauffeurs' Club a few evenings ago on the recent lectures of the dismal Dean of St. Paul's on "The Spirit of the Age," Mr. Plowden, the Metropolitan magistrate, said the spirit of the age was not democracy, but petrol. With great respect to both of them, it is neither. It is Scotch.

"A Man in the Case."

Concerning this playlet, put on at a London music-hall, a cocoa paper critic is much surprised to see Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh come down from "Henry VIII." and "Macbeth," to "pyjamas and dressing-gowns and a bedroom lined with pink silk." It seems that the lover in pyjamas and the wife in a clinging nightgown are seen after midnight in a down-river bungalow, also that the lady hides him under the bolster when she hears her husband coming in. Evidently the critic feels that it is not a scene to which he can properly take his grandmother. Perhaps the London County Council or Mr. Meyer will look in to see whether everything is quite proper, for, of course, nothing really blue should appear on the stage—not even a bedroom. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that music-halls and theatres are not run wholly to please the cocoatarians.

Utterly Inadequate.

Regarded solely as an offence, and not taking into consideration the fact that a young fool is always less blameworthy than an old one, the sentence passed on the eighteen-year-old lad who threw the brass-edged case at Mr. Lloyd George is somewhat inadequate. We know a large number of people who have a conscientious conviction that the Chancellor ought to be hanged, and yet have sufficient restraint not to assail him. Of course, this young idiot is a militant suffragist, as was the other one who not long ago attacked Mr. Churchill with a whip. If these assaults by frantic female and moon-struck male are so lightly regarded by the magistrates, it will happen one of these days that somebody will be discovered tarring and feathering the Lord High Chancellor, or holding the head of a London County Councillor or a City Alderman under a pump. It was nice of the Keeper of the National Cashbox to take so generous a view of his assailant's conduct, but, after all, it is lenient views which tend to make this outrageous and suffragcous madness so persistent.

The Charing Cross Bank Case.

The verdict and sentence in this case amount to a miscarriage of justice. Carpenter was never actuated by any intention to deceive, and therefore ought to have been acquitted. Sympathy with the unfortunate depositors must not warp our judgment. Carpenter was an old fool—that is all.

Condoning False Pretences.

We notice, by the way, that after passing sentence the judge complimented the jury on their ingenuity in "having secured a free lunch by representing that they were engaged on a murder trial." There was just as much fraud in that as in some of the things which Carpenter did.

"Banks."

Perhaps, by the way, the jury's rider to their verdict recommending legislation on the subject of so-called "Banks" may have the effect of causing the Government to reconsider the proposal we made in the House some time ago, to the effect that people who desire to establish "Banks" should at least have to comply with the preliminaries which are necessary in the case of Insurance offices.

THE LABOURER AND HIS HIRE.

Some of the unemployed—there do not seem to be so many of them about as last year at this time, by the way—may be glad to hear that the Public Libraries Committee at Merthyr Tydvil are advertising for a librarian at 25s. a week, while the Shoreditch Borough Council have raised the wages of the public dustmen from 24s. to 27s. a week. Labour is beginning to come into its own.

A SWANSEA WIDOW'S MITE.

The fact that the Swansea Board of Guardians have had to consider about "relieving" a widow with seven children (of whom one had just arrived!), the father being her lodger, inspires a reader to comment upon Welsh morality. He says affiliation proceedings are the daily routine of the petty sessional courts, and the antecedent "immorality" is not generally regarded by Welsh mothers in the light of a wrong, because so long as "father" is found, the mother does not suffer any blame or social degradation. He adds that "if a Welsh Nonconformist minister, with his pulpit resting insecurely on the will of his deacons, dared to preach against this shocking condition of affairs, he would offend two-thirds of every congregation." In regard to the number of illegitimate births, the worst county in England is better than the best county in Wales.

AGENTS PROVOCATEURS.

The *agent provocateur* is a familiar figure in foreign countries, and of late years there has grown up a method of police detection in this country in which he appears with startling frequency. An illustrative case is the prosecution at Machynlleth Petty Sessions of a Darwen publican for selling beer on a Sunday. The only evidence was that of a policeman, who, having disguised himself as a workman, knocked at the door in the evening darkness, told lies (on his own evidence) as to where he had come from and where he was going, asked for bread and cheese, and then asked for beer, and was supplied with it.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE AND THEIR LIBRARY.

If a policeman's pay is "docked" for any purpose he should know what is done with the money. Every month each member of the Metropolitan force has to pay a penny towards a library fund, and he does it cheerfully; but many think, as we do, that the money is not expended to the best advantage. They never see a balance sheet. A penny per month is not much, but when over 19,000 men pay it the total amounts to about £1,000 a year—a sum sufficient to ensure every station having a regular supply of interesting and useful reading. But there seems to be no effective organisation for distribution. Who is responsible for the management of the library, and what voice have the men in it?

A PLEA FOR ENGLISH WAITERS.

We wish the newly formed Waiters' Union all success, but we do not think they will materially better their lot until we have a Business Government that will think more of benefiting Britons than aliens. The new French Finance Bill seeks to protect native against German and other waiters by a clause which proposes to make it illegal to employ more than ten per cent. of foreigners in any hotel, restaurant, café, etc. In this country we exempt foreign servants from the Insurance tax unless they have been here for five years. No wonder they cry "Hoch, Hoch!" and "Vive Lloyd George!"

SCOTCH.

The members of the Ross-shire Master Bakers' Association announce that they have unanimously agreed to discontinue giving free cakes and currant buns at Christmas and the New Year. Will they do us the favour of accepting a biscuit?

TIDSWELL'S TARRADIDDLE.

"Herbert K. Tidswell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.," has written a funny book without knowing it. It is against lacey. In the opinion of Dr. Tidswell lacey ruins the body and gradually destroys the soul, so that the logical conclusion is that lacey destroys life both on earth and in heaven. Here is one of his illustrative cases. "I lately visited a gentleman in a lunatic asylum. I understand his habits were temperate as regarded drink, but he worked hard in a mercantile house and smoked to excess." Now if he had only drunk to excess and not worked as hard!

PARSIMONIOUS COUNCILS AND EMPLOYES' RENT BOOKS.

Some few months ago we commented rather strongly on the resolution of the Public Works Committee demanding that the employés of the Borough Council should periodically produce their rent-books for inspection by the Surveyor. It was an inquisitorial demand, and it seems to have been framed in order to enforce with greater facility a regulation of the Council that "No employé may be in arrears with his rent." Of course, "employé" in this connection means a man who earns about £1 a week and not a man who earns £20. If officials like the Town Clerk, Borough Accountant, Borough Surveyor, and Medical Officer were ordered to produce their rent receipts they would probably tell the Council to go to Jericho. However, the Council have now referred the matter back to the Committee with a view to a modification of the inquisition and we are hopeful that they will modify it accordingly. If it is allowed to continue, employés will next be ordered to show their most private birthmarks.

MAY AND DECEMBER.

Announcement is made that the Rev. William Marshall, the vicar of Idle, near Bradford, eighty years of age, has married Miss Jane Moor, a young Glamorgan lady. This seems to be another instance of the triumph of hope over experience. Our best wishes. We are always delighted to meet an optimist.

THOROUGH.

The man named Johann Gaffke, who murdered his prospective mother-in-law at Danzig, has been condemned to death, mulcted in costs, and deprived of his civil rights. Nothing like doing things thoroughly.

STILL IN TROUBLE.

In our desire to appease Scottish readers' susceptibilities, we have got into hot water with one of our English readers, who says: "I suppose it never occurred to you to apologise to the 35 million Englishmen for nearly always speaking of their own country as Britain. There is too much already in your paper about Britain, and too little about England. Let us have more of the latter in future." Who would be an editor?

A WARNING.

There is, we hear, a novel and ingenious swindle about to be perpetrated. The *modus operandi* is simple. The names and addresses of a large number of shareand stockholders in various companies have been obtained, and just before the dividends are due it is intended to write the secretaries, giving fictitious "new" addresses to which it is hoped the warrants for payment will be sent. As companies post acknowledgments of notices of change of addresses to the new and not the old ones, the tricksters stand a good chance of the fraud not being discovered in time to stop the cashing of the warrants. The prevention of the fraud is, however, easy. Company secretaries should send an acknowledgement to the old address, and let a few days elapse before dispatching dividends.

South Shields Statues.

Now that Messrs. Stiggins, Pecksniff and Chadband, of the South Shields Town Council, have said their say about the statues fronting the new municipal buildings and the Council have rejected the motion to abolish them, it may be taken for granted that nobody who is nice will perceive anything in them that is nasty. If these puritan fanatics had their way, the finest examples of Greek and Roman sculpture in the world would be either wrapped round in blankets or smashed with a coal hammer. "To the pure all things are pure," may easily become the cant defence of the sensualist to criticisms of sensualism in art, but it is clear that these statues in South Shields are incapable of hurting the morals or inflaming the passions of anybody with a proper sense of the moral balances of life. We have the typical Stiggins in the complaint of Councillor Johnston that "the drapery put on only accentuates the coarseness of these figures and concentrates attention on those parts which are not intended to be seen." One is reminded of Mark Twain's famous speech in response to the toast of "The Ladies": "Look, sir, at Cleopatra—look at Desdemona—look at Florence Nightingale—look at Joan of Arc—look at Mother Eve—well, you need not look at *her* unless you want to." Personally, we confess we don't.

Farmer Meech, of Woolminster.

Farmer Meech, of Woolminster, holds strong views about Lloyd George. The story told against him at the Crewkerne Petty Sessions is that he had two farm labourers, one a Tory and the other a Liberal. Both the men put on their party colours at the bye-election, one taunted the other, there was what the Man in the Street calls a shemozzle, Farmer Meech ordered the Liberal to take off his colours or he would kick him off the place, and next day paid him off with a day and a quarter's wages, hit him on the left ear, and told him to go with his family and live with Lloyd George; not reflecting, we suppose, that this vociferous tax-gatherer is not yet reduced to taking in lodgers. On the whole, Farmer Meech appears to be an asset to the Tory party in South Somerset.

A Coveted Post.

The *Evening Chronicle* (Newcastle-on-Tyne) states that the "Duke of Northumberland has consented to preside at the annual banquet of the North of England Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Association, to be held in the King's Hall, at Tilley's Rooms, New Market Street, Newcastle, on Friday, the 15th inst. Already a large number of prominent public, commercial, and professional gentlemen have signified their intention of presiding." We trust it did not mean that they came to fisticuffs for the honour. *We* would have backed the Duke.

Some Little Seasonal Set-backs.

Quite a pretty little kettle of financial fish they seem to have been frying in banking circles lately; with a further batch to follow shortly, so we hear. Official Receiver Brougham has just been giving us the reasons why Lord Milner finally decided to have nothing more to do with the since-departed Bank of Egypt. Very intelligible those reasons appear in the light of events. One principal one was a natural objection to the late manager, Lazzatto Pasha's permitting pet clients from the Orient to overdraw (one party did so, we read, to the tune of £90,000, with never a security to meet it withal). Really, what with happy-go-lucky methods of doing financial business nowadays, and the little usual crop of "disappearances" by Slate Club secretaries, the motto of "A Prosperous New Year" upon the Christmas cards contains more sarcasm than a whole poem of Pope's.

Tit for Tat.

The so-called English spies have certainly caught it hot in the German Courts of Justice, and we suppose that they deserved all they got. All the same the comments in the German Press are beside the mark. It is simply ridiculous to say, for example, that while spying may be carried on abroad in German interests, it is of an altogether less objectionable character than that practised by Great Britain's secret emissaries. It is as absurd to remark, as does the *Vossische Zeitung*, that "the issue of the Leipsic process will not be without influence on the judgment in the coming proceedings against the German spy, Grosse." That sort of revengeful spirit is not in keeping with the British, whatever it may be with the Teuton character. We note in the same connection that Mdlle. Thirion, the French schoolmistress, has been at length released. The whole of the circumstances do not redound to German credit or chivalry, and were a British officer to condescend to the mean trick of that German lieutenant in order to get an innocent girl into the political toils, his stay in the Army would be brief.

The Lords and the Police.

Lord Midleton has done many foolish things in his life, from the days when, as Secretary for War, he muddled the Boer War, and covered soldiers' heads with dustmen's caps. The *Daily Mail* of August 29th, 1903, said, about the evidence in the War Commission report: "*The day of such men as Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Brodrick in English statesmanship is over; they are costly and dangerous luxuries.*" But the *Daily Mail* was a false prophet. The Mr. Brodrick of the War Office is the Lord Midleton of to-day, who in the House of Lords moved the rejection of the Bill which provided for the grant to the Metropolitan Police of one day's rest in seven—when an attenuated House showed its lack of sympathy with London's police by throwing out the measure. There is no burden the London ratepayers would more cheerfully bear, for they know the police have well earned the proposed benefit. The matter must be put right without delay.

Mead and the Organ Grinder.

A few days ago an organ grinder—English—was brought before Mr. Mead of the Marlborough Street police-court for grinding an organ with the object of gathering alms. The man had placed a notice on his organ announcing that he had served in the Army under three monarchs, and that he had a wife and four little children dependent on him. He may have got a little cash from the crowd, but he certainly got no sympathy from Mr. Mead. "There is a placard on the organ stating the man's private affairs," said this magisterial stickler for legal technicality, "and by this sort of appeal the ordinary organ grinder who relies on the music to attract persons is unfairly competed with." What the magistrate means is that, being an Englishman who announces that he must grind an organ or starve, and his wife and children must starve with him, he is in unfair competition with the olive-complexioned musician from sunny Sicily, who arouses public sympathy by the antics of his monkey. Mr. Mead, therefore, sends him to gaol for a month with hard labour. This is one of the freest countries on earth for a fellow who doesn't belong to it.

Sir Henry Maine, LL.D., F.R.S., on Party.

"No force acting on mankind has been less carefully examined than party, and yet none better deserves examination." (P. 98.) "Party feeling is probably far more a survival of the primitive combativeness of mankind than a consequence of conscious intellectual differences between man and man." (P. 36) "Popular Government."

MR. SAMUEL AND JUSTICE FOR POSTAL WORKERS.

Mr. Samuel has done well in reconsidering his attitude towards the Post Office workers. The instances of hardship and unfair treatment that we have from time to time made public proved that the employees have very real grievances, and our contention that it was a cruel mockery to deny them justice until 1913—which is what a Commission appointed in 1913 really means—is now accepted. We hope that the appointment of the Commission early next session will not mean that starvation pay, such as that of the poor deformed postwoman in Westmoreland, who received 3s. per week, will be left over for revision.

SHOP ASSISTANTS AND THE INSURANCE ACT.

Undoubtedly shop assistants have many grievances, but the Insurance Act will materially add to them. As the Parliamentary Committee of the Grocers' Federation puts it, "the Act in its present form will create a new situation alike for employers and assistants." Its result will be to abolish in a great measure the present system of employers paying full wages in illness. If the illness lasted six weeks it means that the employer would contract to pay £6 per a Government rebate of 4s. 4d., which is an agreement that only a very poor type of lunatic would make. The result will be an entirely new form of engagement, relieving the employer of all liability beyond his insurance contribution, and in most cases inflicting a loss during illness of some 10s. weekly upon the assistant. This comes of having a Party Government with no practical knowledge of the trades they legislate for. A Business Government would have had masters' and men's representatives meet and settle the insurance question in accordance with the requirements of each industry—in the same way as it would deal with the fiscal question.

RUMOUR, THE LYING JADE.

It is rumoured that Miss Marie Corelli's latest book "The Life Everlasting," is to be followed by one entitled "Amen."

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR CERTAIN GUARDIANS OF THE POOR.—THAT THEY WILL KEEP BEFORE THEM THE DICTIONARY, OPEN AT THE WORD "CHARITY."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

[*"Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in a good humoured, sticker to such of our contemporaries, and others as may have distinguished themselves in some amusing way with an utterance or act.*]

(1). *For stating that "PARCEL POST PARCELS possess all power to explain, and will PAY FOR themselves many times over by the late Sir Edward Boyle's saving,"*

THE DAILY MAIL

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(2). *For stating that "Love is the greatest emotion for CYCLISTS as well as for all the rest of us,"*

THE WESTERN DAILY MERCURY

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(3). *For advertising in the "Sale Rooms" of December 16th: "NO Stock can rival the last Carved 'The Last Supper,'"*

FAVELL (Ironmonger and Painter, Fore Street, Seaton)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(4). *For reporting Mr. Bonar Law as saying, in his speech at Bootle, of the three lads, that: "If the worst came to the worst [they would not] say they would, but the answer in each case would be—that we'll pay handsomely to be rid of you," whereas Mr. Bonar Law actually said that the lads were desired to be brought to Downing Street,*

THE MORNING POST

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(5). *For advertising in the "Situations Vacant" column of the "Daily Mail" of December 16th: "Tall, fine young man wanted, weight 12 to 13 stone, light employment and good wages,"*

"MANAGER" (15, Trongate, Glasgow)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(6). *For stating, in a list published in the "Christmas Storyteller," that one of the characters "was, as usual, in the fireplace, and cast his UNWELCOME SHADOW on the flaming logs,"*

Miss MARJORIE BOWEN

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(7). *For advertising in the "Edinburgh Guide," "KITTY wants a Home, SMART, GOOD LOOKING, WILLING TO WORK,"*

THE ADVERTISER (1, Gordon Place, Friockheim)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(8). *For the following defence of the December issue of the "A.B.C. Railway Guide":*

	Up.	*Down.*
(Midnight)	12.15 *a*	12.51
	12.15 *a*	12.51

"Saturday excepted."

"Thursdays only."

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE A.B.C. RAILWAY GUIDE

TAKE THE BISCUIT.

(9). *For advertising a petrol vaporiser as "economical and ODOURLESS."*

THE MOTOR ACCESSORIES CO. (55, Great Marlborough Street, London, W.)

TAKE THE BISCUIT.

OUR "BISCUIT" COMPETITION.

For particulars of an interesting—and profitable—Competition for children, see announcement on page 954.

LABOUR WAR OF 1912.—IV.

STRIKE-BREAKERS—FORCIBLE AND FARCICAL.

[*We give below the concluding article of the series detailing the result of our Special Commissioner's enquiries into the causes of the present lamentable industrial unrest.*]

Many letters of congratulation have reached us from both masters and men upon our plain statement of their respective cases. Now we have to deal with the forces of "Law and Order." The Government of a country, in addition to being responsible for national defence, have a duty to perform in maintaining law and order amongst the civil population. The police, generally speaking, carry out this duty in a very efficient manner. Should they at any time, however, be inadequate, the executive Government can call to its aid the military forces of the Crown. These consist of

(1) The Regular Troops.
(2) The Territorials.

Either of these forces could "break the back" of a strike if determined to do so.

STRIKE-BREAKERS FORCIBLE.

The civil police are always with us, ready to act at a moment's notice. The Regular troops come in as a supplementary force on emergency; and during the past year they have been used on many occasions. Heated debates have taken place in the House of Commons as to the legality of their employment in Liverpool, Llanelly, and Manchester, without any definite result—Ministers displaying their usual evasive tactics. Soldiers serve under military law; they are also subject to civil law for civil offences.

"Military law is the law which governs the soldier in peace and in war, at home and abroad" says "The Manual of Military Law"; so it is to this code we must refer for guidance as to the use of troops in the late, and, indeed, in future, trade disputes. What does it tell us? The whole chapter dealing with the matter is unintelligible. We are not sure that it is not meant to be so in order to leave the discretionary power in the hands of the Executive. The army is the weapon of whatever Government happens to be in power. What is the Government? It is a group of men "chosen" by the people to rule them—at any rate, that is the theory.

Perhaps the greatest authority of modern times upon military law—as indeed, upon many other subjects—was the late Sir Charles Dilke, and when we hear the whinings of such men as Keir Hardie at what he chooses to term "the illegal use of troops," our thoughts go back to the days when this very "Manual of Military Law"—which is law for one year only—used to be vigorously attacked by Sir Charles. What did the Labour members do on such occasions? They walked out of the House: it was no concern of theirs! They now see the result.

It is generally supposed that before troops can come on the scene of a civil disturbance a request must come from the Chief Magistrate of the locality. Nothing of the sort! Another widespread idea is that before the soldiers fire the Riot Act must be read. Nothing of the kind! And that when the troops fire they will first of all fire blank cartridges. No such rule exists. We have set out to speak the truth, and the truth is that "The Manual of Military Law"—the code which governs the soldier—is unintelligible. When the troops appear on the scene of an assembly of men during trade disputes the crowd would be wise if they cleared away without being asked to do so. Let there be no mistake about our advice. If troops are called upon to clear a certain area they will do it, and if they are told to shoot—they never shoot with blank cartridges except for saluting purposes—they will shoot to kill. Regular soldiers serving under military law, are *real* strike breakers.

STRIKE-BREAKERS FARCICAL.

When the old Volunteers were abolished it was for no other reason than that they did not serve under military law except when brigaded with Regular troops. Even then it was optional on the part of the civilian auxiliary. The authorities might call him from civil life to join his corps, but—except for a few training drills—it was optional on his part whether he turned up or not. During the late Boer War the Government had a severe shock. They realised that the country was denuded of troops whom they could *order* to assemble, and they determined to alter things. When the Territorial force was founded the question as to whether the men could be used in trade disputes came prominently before the country, and recruiting for a number of months was practically at a standstill in consequence of the uncertainty of this. The War Secretary time after time gave shuffling answers in Parliament on the point. At last he had to make a definite statement to prevent the dwindling of his new protégé. The result is that Territorials can be called out to aid the civil police, but only when embodied for service as a military force. As a matter of fact the authorities do not, even now, know where they are. In the north the "Terriers" are largely trade unionists, and it requires no great stretch of imagination to picture these men fighting for their own side. Indeed, certain commanding officers in Wales got the "jumps" so badly from this cause during the late riots that they had the breach bolts of all the rifles removed and placed carefully under lock and key.

Territorials as strike breakers cannot be taken seriously. The sense of discipline which is inbred in the Regular soldier is not possessed by them.

THE VOLUNTEER POLICE FORCE.

This is another well-intentioned but futile force for dealing with desperate men. What the numbers are we neither know nor care. Its members are likely to come in for some rough handling from the uniformed civil policeman—for he considers them to be "blacklegs"! In warfare an undisciplined soldier is a source of danger—so is the amateur "bobby" in a strike riot. There was little loss of life during the recent disturbances, but we warn the authorities that if, in the coming struggle, they allow these amateurs to organise and work as a body, wholesale murder will be committed. It is the duty of every citizen to go to the aid of the civil police if called upon to do so, but it is distinctly *illegal* to form such a force as the "Volunteer Police." Already, as an antidote—although two blacks do not make a white—we have the trade unionists in Bradford forming themselves into a corps to meet such a force. Where is all this to lead us?

THE PARASITICAL FREE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

Here is another body of farcical strike-breakers. This Association was formed some twenty years ago. Its aim is to support non-union workers during times of strikes. The organisers thrive on the subscriptions they manage to obtain from the "captains of industry." The executive says, "When strikes are threatened do not fail to communicate with us," and they state in a report which we have before us, "The names of subscribers to the funds of our Association are, and always have been, treated in the strictest confidence. We do not publish a list of our subscribers for obvious reasons."

That being so, let us oblige by stating a few of the sums given last year to its various branches: Barry Railway, £26; London and South-Western Railway, £120; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway, £10 10s.; Rhymney Railway, £25; Taff Vale Railway, £26 5s.; Glasgow and South-Western Railway, £10 10s.; Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway, £5; Great Northern of Ireland Railway, £10; Great Southern and Western Railway, £10 10s.; Midland Great Western of Ireland Railway, £10 10s. We predict that this Association has had its day. In any case, as a strike-breaking force it has proved itself both futile and farcical.

In the four articles we have published, we have endeavoured to place before the public the cases of both Capital and Labour. It is a deplorable situation. "Oh, for a Business Government!"

WHO IS DEPUTY JUDGE TEMPLER?

A TADCASTER TYRANT.

[In this article we deal with a case recently brought before the Tadcaster County Court, in which a plaintiff was the victim of the Deputy Judge's prejudice against motorists.]

A good many people, mostly pedestrians, detest motors, and a Judge has as much right as other folk to hold an opinion, and express it, upon this method of conveyance. But a Judge has also to administer the law, and that is a truism which we fear his Honour Deputy Judge Templer, of the Tadcaster County Court, is apt to forget when dealing with motor cases. For not only does Judge Templer dislike motors, which he is quite entitled to do; he allows his dislike to influence his judgment in motor cases.

Recently Mr. A. C. Gray, who is a commercial traveller of Leeds, claimed from the Tadcaster District Council the sum of 18s. 6d. for damage to his waterproof and gloves, and a few days ago the case came on for trial before his Honour Deputy Judge Templer. The plaintiff's facts were not contested. He stated that on the day of the accident he went from Leeds to Askham Bryan on his motor cycle, and found tar spraying operations in progress in the main street at Tadcaster. Only half the road was being treated, the other half being left open for traffic. The road after it had been sprayed was also sanded. Mr. Gray returned in half an hour's time and found the conditions just the same, except that the road which had just been finished had not been sanded, and that for the last eight yards had been tar-sprayed the whole of the width. There was no warning notice, and his cycle skidded on the tar, with the result that he was thrown off and his clothes damaged. It was for this that Mr. Gray claimed, holding that there should have been a notice warning travellers of the state of the end of the road.

The contention will seem reasonable to most people, but it did not commend itself to his Honour Deputy Judge Templer. "Was it the only road in England?" asked the Judge. Surely a very irrelevant question. Not less so was the next remark, "If you go on a tarred road you do so at your own risk." The questions here were not whether this road was the only road Mr. Gray might have travelled upon, but whether it was a road upon which he, as one of the public, had a right to travel, and whether the risk incurred in travelling on it was not an unnecessary risk. The Judge went on to remark, "The roads are not made for either motor cycles or motor driving. They are made for ordinary people." It may surprise his Honour Judge Templer to be told, but it is none the less a fact, that the roads are made for motor cycles, and for motor driving, as well as "for ordinary people," whatever that may mean. In reply to this sapient observation of the Judge, the plaintiff said, "I consider there should have been a notice." And this is how his Honour Deputy Judge Templer dealt with the plea, and the case:

> Judgment for the Council. There is no case to answer. These people seem to think that the roads are made for them and for their own purposes. Motors are the greatest nuisances that ever came and the sooner they are swept off the face of the earth the better.

We are not surprised that the Yorkshire Automobile Club have taken up the matter, and that the Committee have passed a resolution in which they say that they view "with considerable indignation and alarm" the expressions of the Judge. They also "realise the futility of motorists defending actions brought against them by persons more often than not totally to blame for accidents, with the knowledge that such actions will be tried before a Judge who is reported to have used the expression that 'the sooner motorists are swept off the face of the earth the better.'"

It may be added that unless his Honour can bring himself to take a sane view of motor travelling, justice requires that he should not be permitted to adjudicate in motor cases.

A GROWL FROM OXFORD TRADESMEN.

When the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes bequeathed money for the purpose of educating lads at Oxford, he was under the impression that £300 a year would be ample. Several tradesmen in Oxford, however, inform us that they are unable to get their accounts paid by some of these Rhodes' scholars. And when the students are pressed—oh, the language!

MR. CROOKS, M.P., AND THE GAMING ACT.

A HINT FOR THE "PRUDENTIAL."

[Below we show how, when sued for the return of money paid by way of premium upon an illegal policy, the "Liverpool-Victoria" of which Mr. Crooks, M.P., is a Trustee, pleaded the Gaming Act.]

It may or may not be logical, but it is certainly true that a man who fails to pay a debt of honour, being able to pay it by one means or another, is in the opinion of men of honour beneath contempt. You may owe your tailor for the clothes you are wearing; you may owe your baker for the bread your children are eating; and although you can pay and won't, your honour is not besmirched. But if you do not pay a debt of honour incurred at the card table, or on the race course—such debt in fact that comes within the meaning of the term "debt of honour," and is not enforceable at law—you are looked upon as unfit for the society of honourable men. Even the betting section of the more respectable sort shrink from pleading the Gaming Act. But apparently Mr. William Crooks, M.P., does not agree with these fine distinctions. If he incurs a debt not enforceable at law, even though the debt be due to the poor and friendless, he will not pay it. That it is a debt, a debt which he, and no one else, is bound to pay, is self-evident. Non-payment will not be followed by a writ, and judgment, and other unpleasant consequences, and so he flouts the creditor, since he can flout him with impunity. If that be not his practice as William Crooks, M.P., it is his practice as trustee of a insurance society, whose ostensible object is to deal fairly and even generously, with those who are its customers.

Let us look at a case recently heard in the King's Bench Division by Mr. Justice Bucknill and a Common Jury. An action was brought by Mr. Edward Evanson, of Birmingham, against Mr. William Crooks, M.P., and others as trustees of the Liverpool Victoria Legal Friendly Society. Mr. Evanson had an interest in a policy issued by this society. This policy, as he alleged, was an illegal one because it insured the life of a person who had never signed a proposal form, and knew nothing about the transaction. Mr. Evanson, on various grounds, claimed a return of the premiums paid. Among other things he alleged that the proposal had been obtained by fraudulent misrepresentation. Mr. Crooks and his co-defendants denied the plaintiff's allegations, but they were not content with that. As if they feared that the denials would not be accepted, they pleaded that they were entitled to a verdict under the Gaming Act, saying that the transaction between their agent and the plaintiff was in the nature of a gamble. In giving judgment Mr. Justice Bucknill made the following observations: "It would be an interesting point to consider whether plaintiff was entitled to recover the money paid for a consideration that had never been carried out, but defendants had pleaded the Gaming Act and he must give judgment for them with costs on that ground." We are entitled, then, to say that, whatever the merits of the other particulars upon which the plaintiff relied—whether they could be sustained or not, whether evidence in support of them was sufficient or not—Mr. Crooks and his co-defendants rested their defence upon the Gaming Act, relied upon the Act to account them of responsibility for the return of the premiums, and got rid of their responsibility by means of that plea. It follows that in the opinion of Mr. Crooks and his co-defendants, the Trustees of the Liverpool Victoria Legal Friendly Society, if is an honourable thing to collect premiums of a working woman for years and years, and when she dies and her representative asks for the money, to plead that there is no obligation to pay. Is it possible to conceive a more dishonouring defence?

MISS WESTON AGAIN!

Miss Weston, of "Sailors' Rest" fame, is again asking for funds in the same old way. After all we have said about her establishments it seems these publicly-supported "Rests," running in competition with ordinary coffee-shops and temperance hotels, are dying a hard death. Jack should boycott them, and so give them a "knock-out blow." He grumbles to us sufficiently.

STATE INSURANCE.

A SHAMEFUL FRAUD ON THE POOR.

By T. Good.

[*Mr. Good, who is a recognised authority on the subject, continues his merciless criticism of the State Insurance Act. His previous articles have caused a great deal of stir in Government and Labour circles.*]

When the cruel and callous fraud of the Insurance Scheme comes to be understood by the democracy there will be something like a revolution. Hundreds of thousands of workmen who take but the slightest interest in politics will be roused from their lethargy by this new imposition. It will touch every worker every week—there will be no escape.

If Mr. Lloyd George and his assistants had set out deliberately to frame a measure to rob the poor, in order to provide fat salaries for a colossal army of jacks-in-office, they could hardly have managed it better than they have done in this bastard Insurance Act. Let me explain.

In the first place it must be observed that the officials are given powers to make the scheme considerably worse in actual operation than it stands as an Act of Parliament. Not only can they administer the law—extort and spend a portion of every worker's wage, uncontrolled by the worker's voice or vote—but they can alter the law itself. These officials can "do anything which appears to them necessary or expedient"—(Clause 78); they can make just "such arrangements as they think fit" with the doctors—(Clause 15); they can rule the friendly societies; they can clap another penny a week on the contributions; they can knock a shilling a week off the benefits; they can even suspend the benefits; and they can deduct from the funds practically what they like for their own expenses.

Heavier Payments and Less Benefits than Anticipated.

We find clause after clause designed to deprive the workers of the benefits they are being led to expect. The poorest of the poor will most certainly pay more, and benefit far less, than is generally anticipated.

Take, for example, the case of a labourer employed in the shipbuilding industry. The wage is supposed to be 22s. 6d. per week, but, allowing for short time in the winter, and for frequent stoppages both summer and winter, this man's wage, spread over the full 52 weeks of the year, may average no more than 16s. As rents are usually high, general cost of living above the average, and gardens and pig-keeping out of the question in the chief shipbuilding districts like the Clyde and Tyne, 16s. a week is not a living wage. It is necessary, therefore, that the wife should also be a wage-earner. She goes out to work, at such employment as she can find, part of each week—say, three days at 2s. a day. The combined income of man and wife is thus 22s. per week

No Benefit for Six Months.

Now, before proceeding further with the provisions of the new scheme regarding either contributions or benefits, let us be careful to note the existing position of this man, his wife and family, in the matter of sickness benefit, etc. To-day, before the Lloyd George scheme is operative, the man is a member of a sick and dividing club, democratically and economically managed. When sick he gets 8s. per week without any official palaver, and every Christmas there is a "share-out." If he dies his widow gets £5. But that is not all. If either himself, his wife, or any of his children are ill, his foreman will give him a note for the local hospital, and doctoring and drugs are supplied gratis—also nourishment and nursing. For all these sickness benefits, including Christmas "share-out" and death benefit, the contributions are 4d. per week to the club, and 1d. to the hospital fund.

Under the Lloyd George scheme the contribution will be not 5d., but 7d. per week—4d. off the wages of the husband, and 3d. off the wages of the wife, to say nothing of the 2½d. in respect of unemployment, which will be explained hereafter. That is the minimum sickness premium in this case—7d. per week. It is a poll tax of 6d. in the pound on the wages of labourers who are already taxed, upon their glass of beer and pipe of tobacco, more heavily than the labourers in any other country. On the face of it, and according to the promises made, the man is to be entitled to 10s. per week sick pay, the wife to 7s. 6d. per week, there is to be free doctoring and drugs, sanatorium benefit, maternity benefit, and, in case of permanent disablement, 5s. per week. These are the benefits the workers are being led to expect. But what will they get?

To begin with, there is a 26 weeks' probationary period. All the money extorted from workers and employers, amounting to more than £10,000,000 in the six months, will be withdrawn from useful circulation. A blow will be struck at the nation's commerce by a tax levied upon the nation's industry, half of it wrung out of the meagre wages of the poor. In the meantime, millions of the workmen will have dropped out of their clubs, both employers and workmen will have ceased to contribute to medical charities, clubs will be dissolved and hospitals will go bankrupt. Sickness benefits at present existing will, in a vast number of cases, have died out before the end of the first half year of the new scheme. And what will the new scheme give us?

1s. 9d. as a Year's Sick-Pay!

Let us take again the case of the shipyard labourer. Other cases will have attention in succeeding articles. Our shipyard man will most likely be what is termed a Post-Office deposit contributor. He will pay for insurance, but he will not get insurance, or anything like insurance. On the first day of January, 1913, there will be standing to his credit, in the shape of his own and his employer's contributions, about 15s. Keep that in mind—15s.—for what applies to our shipyard man will apply equally to hundreds of thousands of other poor men.

Now, it is laid down in Clause 41 that "the sums required for the payment of any sickness, disablement, or maternity benefit payable to a deposit contributor . . . shall be paid out of money standing to his credit in the Post Office fund, and his right to benefits . . . shall be suspended on the sum standing to his credit in that fund being exhausted. . . ." But that is not all. Out of this 15s. there will be taken the doctor's grant, the druggist's grant, the sanatorium grant, and the expenses of the local Health Committee, before a penny will be available for sick pay. And even that is not all. The real sting is in this provision—Clause 41 (*e*)—"The sums payable in respect of a deposit contributor for the purposes of medical benefit and sanatorium benefit, and towards the expenses of administration, shall . . . be deducted at the *commencement of each year*. . . ." This means that a full year's costs and expenses are to be deducted from the half-year's contributions. How much of the 15s. will be left? Even if the doctors agree to work for a capitation fee of 6s., if the chemists supply drugs for 2s., and if the administration is done for 4s., these charges, coupled with the sanatorium grant of 1s. 3d., will take no less than 13s. 3d. from the poor fellow's 15s. Suppose, as is highly probable, the doctors demand 7s. or 8s. in the industrial districts, and the administration costs are more than 4s., where will the sick pay come from? Even if we take the lowest figures, there will be only a paltry 1s. 9d. left standing to the man's credit. That will not give many weeks' sick pay at 10s. a week! As for the loudly advertised State subsidy of 2d. a week, it is not 2d.—it is only two-ninths of *the benefits*, so that, on the meagre benefits of this case, it is not worth consideration. In plain English, the man we are considering will find, after paying six months' contributions, that he has nothing like even one week's benefit available during the whole of the following twelve months. Still he will have to go on paying.

Legalised Robbery.

Now let us pass on to the beginning of 1914. Our man will have been paying for eighteen months. The first six months he will have had no benefit of any kind. For the next twelve months, under the system of deducting costs in advance, he will not be entitled to so much as one week's benefit. He will be lucky if he is entitled to 1s. 9d. sick pay in the first 76 weeks. Then, again, if at any time he falls sick, and exhausts his credit balance, he is cut off absolutely from all benefits throughout the whole of the following calendar year—he is deprived of medical attendance and drugs, of disablement benefit, of sanatorium benefit, and even his wife loses the maternity benefit. The same remarks and conditions apply to nearly all labourers, nearly all servants and women workers, all except the members of approved societies—they will get benefits only so long as there is a balance to their credit, and all costs and expenses, save the fraction contributed by the State, will be deducted in advance. If this is not legalised robbery I find it exceedingly difficult to supply another definition of it.

AUDITORS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

[A new form of City blackmail is now attaining serious proportions—the persecution of auditors of the leading commercial companies.]

In conversation, a leading auditor, carrying on business in the very heart of the City, bitterly denounced the methods of blackmail he and every one in his profession is encountering.

"How is it done? That is easy enough to explain. An auditor is not a valuer, but many people seem to think he is. Certain figures are placed before him for the purposes of his investigations, and on these, accepting them, he has to work. Now suppose it is a great concern which goes wrong—goes to pieces, in fact. Suppose its valuations are all wrong, and that the auditor has worked on figures in the study of which with a little more knowledge, which is often not vouchsafed him, he might have detected the causes of the insolvency, the dishonest trading if you like, which is at length coming to light.

"Very often someone with an inside or specialised knowledge notices the weak points. He goes to the auditor and delicately suggests that he was proposing to bring the weak spots into the light of day, but that he realises the reputation of the firm is so high that they would not wish to court the objectionable publicity, and therefore he prefers first to lay the facts before them. What then? Why, as a rule the auditor prefers to take his cheque book out of his pocket and hand to the delicate blackmailer a solatium for his injured sense of right. The auditor may have an excellent reply, but he knows that if you throw enough mud, some is sure to stick, while any action in the Law Courts is so invested with traditional uncertainty that no man can predict its outcome. Hence, he avoids the Courts.

"What can you expect for a miserable fee of £50 or £100? Some people seem to believe that for so trifling an annual sum an auditor can keep himself constantly in touch with all the intricacies of modern trading. He cannot, yet he knows that many people expect him to. Even the best men are nowadays worn with anxiety. Some cannot sleep at nights for thinking of the crucial situation in which they find themselves owing to the position of companies with which they are connected. Do they know the truth? Are they told the truth? Should they tell the truth? Should they wreck a concern which may very possibly be sound enough by disclosing certain things on which possibly they may be ill informed? They do not like to run a needless risk, and yet they know that any dereliction on their part may entail grave consequences to themselves, may perhaps ruin their businesses. Why, one of the leading City auditors is now invalided, while another is suffering from an acute attack of neuritis.

"I should think some firms of auditors have paid away hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds in this form of hush money. You may think that it is cowardly to do so if there is no real cause. Well, remember that there are few businesses as easily ruined as an auditor's, for on his absolute rectitude not the faintest breath of suspicion or incompetence must rest.

"No—sooner or later auditors will organise more efficiently, and insist in the first place on better payment and in the second on fuller and more detailed information. It would place them, of course, in a better position, and it would really be a godsend to the community. For there are several big concerns now quite rotten if only the auditors knew enough to say so. They themselves doubtless are more or less aware of the true state of affairs, but they may hesitate to precipitate a crisis, feeling that, in their state of partial knowledge, they may be wrong, and if they act wrongly they may be ruined. Believe me, there are more lucrative jobs than auditors. One is that of the individual who blackmails them."

Our attention has been directed to Arthur Williams and Company, who describe themselves as Bankers, of 104, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. We have often protested against the use of the term Banker by firms not carrying on a legitimate banking business. Our information is that Arthur Williams and Company, who are outside stockbrokers, are not carrying on an ordinary bank.

EXTORTING MONEY FROM SERVANT GIRLS.

SCOUNDRELS WHO DESERVE FLOGGING.

It's a queer world we live in. While the British and Foreign Bible Society are eager to give away Bibles, Messrs. Roberts and Co., of 4, Eaton Street, Richmond, Surrey, manage to do a brisk trade in them at 5s. 6d. each. Their *modus operandi* is to send out touts to call upon servant girls. These touts are selected for their plausibility and lying capacities. Once a poor servant comes within their clutches, her chances of not being robbed are very remote. We have exposed this firm from time to time in these columns, but they brazen it out. We are glad to know that until such time as they are safe under lock and key no exposure will be strong enough to restrain them from swindling unsuspecting people.

In the Holt County Court a short time ago Roberts and Co. claimed the sum of £1 from Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]. The debt was for money due on the sale of a Bible. Mr. [illegible] Roberts had supplied his daughter with a Bible at the price of 5s., the payment of which was to be made by instalments. At the time of the sale his daughter was only fifteen years of age, and he himself knew nothing of the transaction until he received a letter from them demanding payment. In dismissing the case, and ordering the plaintiffs to pay the highest costs possible, the judge said that it was one of those outrageous cases where even the Bible was made use of for the worst of purposes in extorting money from servants. The plaintiffs had foisted a Bible upon a little girl of fifteen years of age at the price of 5s. It was quite plain that they established this nefarious agency for extorting money.

BRITISH COLUMBIAN EMIGRANTS, BEWARE!

A CRUEL MIS-STATEMENT.—"LITTLE SHORT OF CRIMINAL."

In the *Evening Standard* there recently appeared the following notice:—

> The Hon. J. H. Turner, Agent-General for British Columbia, has to-day received the following cablegrams from his Government with regard to the present labour conditions in that country:—
>
> "There is a great demand for labourers and mechanics in British Columbia.
>
> "Railway contractors have great difficulty in securing men. The cost of living is approximately the same as it is in the adjoining United States districts, and wages in British Columbia are higher.
>
> "Ten million acres have been set aside for settlers. These may be pre-empted to the extent of 160 acres for each adult."

Here it will be noted that Mr. Turner, the Agent-General for British Columbia, says that he has been informed by his Government: (1) That there is a great demand for labourers and mechanics in British Columbia. (2) That the cost of living is no higher and that the wages are higher in British Columbia than the United States. (3) That ten million acres has been set aside for settlers in plots of 160 acres each.

Commenting upon this official statement, the *Vancouver World* of November 24th says that if any such cablegram as that we have quoted was sent by the Government to Mr. Turner, "the action is little short of criminal." And our contemporary goes on to say: (1) That with the coming winter the tendency will be to reduce the number of men employed. (2) That so far as mechanics are concerned "there has never been any shortage except in the works of firms which have some dispute with the Unions." (3) That as to railway construction all the men are available that are likely to be wanted for months to come, and if they are not offering themselves as freely as the directors would desire it is because the remuneration and conditions of employment are such that no man would put up with them any longer than it takes to earn the few dollars necessary to get away from them. (4) That to say that ten million acres of land is open to pre-emptors is to bring people to British Columbia under false pretences, in view of the inaccessibility of the land.

Our contemporary goes on to say that British Columbia wants immigrants, but "it wants people who can afford to buy their places, not pre-emptors."

Perhaps the Agent-General for British Columbia will explain how it came about that his Government instructed him to publish this statement as to the need of labourers and mechanics, which a Vancouver paper of repute says is grossly misleading.

THE FUSILLANIMOUS "PRU."

HOW IT RUNS AWAY—BUT DOES NOT FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

A Portsmouth correspondent, who belongs to the Royal Garrison Artillery, tells us that he was much struck with the case of Mrs. Burke, of Fair Haven, which appeared in our issue of November 4th. It may be remembered that that lady, on the ground of forgery and fraud, sought to recover premiums paid to the Prudential Company, which had by confounding her father-in-law with another person induced him to take out a policy on the life of his father-in-law. Our gunner friend considered that his case was on all fours with that of Mrs. Burke's. We are not quite sure of that, but here it is as he tells it:—

In 1909 that person was induced by one of the Prudential agents in March, 1909, to take out a policy on the life of his father-in-law. He was not willing to do so, but the agent was persistent, and at last he decided to take out one with a premium of threepence a week. When the policy was handed to him he found that he had to pay sixpence a week, and the agent explained that he had lost two threepenny premiums which he had to make good somehow, or the Company would not go on."

Our correspondent acquiesced in this rather lame explanation, and went on paying his sixpence a week, until he read what we had to say about Mrs. Burke. He then found upon examination of the policy that the address of his father-in-law was given falsely. His father-in-law, who knew nothing whatever about this insurance transaction, had lived in the same house for over 50 years: he was, indeed, born in the same street, and had never resided out of it. But the name of the street had no resemblance to the one where the policy described him as living.

The artilleryman then wrote to Holborn Bars, asking for the return of his premiums, and he received the usual answer from the Joint Manager, to the effect that the Superintendent would call upon him in reference to the matter. The Superintendent did call, and so did other Superintendents and agents, all with the object of persuading him that everything was right, "trying to talk me over," as our correspondent puts it. But he was not, as he says, "easy to lead," and the more they talked the more confident he became that the so-called policy was no better than a worthless piece of paper. And so he made his demand upon Holborn Bars for the return of all his premiums, and when they found that he meant business they refunded them.

A FRAUDULENT SPECIAL CANVASSER.

The following case illustrates in another way the extraordinary methods of this great Company—great, that is, so far as wealth is concerned. At the Castleford Police Court, William Jackson, described as an insurance agent in Methley, was charged with obtaining money under false pretences. It is not necessary to go into the merits of the case. It was said that he got money on a worthless cheque, and that the transaction related to betting. The Bench held it was a "very serious offence," and the prisoner was committed for six months with hard labour. At the end of the report of the case as given in the *Castleford Express* there is a paragraph which runs:—

> Mr. J. Franks, Assistant Superintendent Prudential Assurance Company, of Normington, writes stating that Jackson "was agent at Normington some years ago, also an Assistant Superintendent, but it must be nearly five years ago since he severed his connection with the Company.

Now what are the facts? Jackson was with the Prudential, as stated by Franks, and has been with them ever since in the *role* of canvasser. After Jackson's dismissal by the Company for grave offences he was taken on again by them in the district of Wakefield, and there, as elsewhere, has been allowed to impose upon policy holders until district after district got too hot for him. "Not only," says a Normington correspondent, "did he represent himself as acting for the Company, but he was also often introduced by the agents to the policy holders as an Inspector from the Chief Office, and his silk hat and general attire aided the imposition." In other words, this disreputable person, who had been dismissed by the Company for misconduct, was afterwards allowed to represent it in various places as a Special Canvasser. Comment upon such conduct on the part of the head office is surely unnecessary.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXIV.

[*In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged and no deduction of any kind is made by us.*]

THE DYING YEAR AND A DYING VETERAN.

When the church bells chime the Old Year out and the New Year in their sweet music will probably be heard for the last time over the subject of this Human Document.

This veteran of industry is 81 years of age, a widower. His wife died just a year ago. For many years he worked for one firm, and lost his place owing to a broken leg. This seems to have been the commencement of his troubles, for after the accident he was never able to obtain regular employment, and owing to bad setting he is now unable to leave the one room he occupies. He is in receipt of the old age pension, out of which he pays 2s. 6d. for his room. When we offered the advice that he should go into the infirmary, the old man shook his head and said, "No, I was never there. I've managed to pull along for 81 years, I've not much further to go."

The balance of the cost of a self-propelling chair for a young man who lost both legs as the result of a terrible accident has been very generously found by a gentleman who prefers that his name shall not be mentioned, but who, we may say, is the same kind supporter of ours who helped so munificently Human Document-CLII.

We have received from a reader, who wishes to be known as "New Malden," three pairs of nice, warm, knitted socks for our old friend the boatman, whose case was given in "Human Document" CLXIV.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXVI.—"A Friend," 5s.

CLXXI.—J. A. D. and J. L., 1s.; E. S. R., 10s.; M. A. S., 2s. 6d.; "Spud," 1s.; R. J. I., 5s.; "Anonymous" (Torquay), 2s. 6d.

CLXXII.—W. D., 2s.; Mrs. E. M., 5s.; K. R., 5s.; M. E. B., 1s.; "Anonymous" (Torquay), 2s. 6d.

CLXXIII.—"Jobin," 20s.; A. R., 1s.; "Anonymous" (Torquay), 2s. 6d.

"JOHN BULL" COLLECTING BOXES.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE "HUMAN DOCUMENT" FUND.

In response to our appeal, many shopkeepers and tradesmen—including a considerable number of licensed victuallers—have generously consented to exhibit collecting boxes for our "Human Document" Fund. The following are the places in the London E.C. District where such boxes will be found, and we shall be deeply grateful if any of our readers in the neighbourhood will drop in and leave a mite for the benefit of the derelicts for whom we plead. The boxes will be cleared at regular intervals, and their contents applied to the relief of any particular case selected by the collector. Failing such direction, the money will be distributed in our discretion. Further lists will appear from time to time:—

Adams, Mr. A. H., "Black Horse," 47, Barbican; Barnett, Mr. L., 1, Holywell Lane; Bell, Mr. W. E. G., "Castle," 37, City Road; Brinkman, Mr. P. "Bricklayer's Arms," Charlotte Street; Charlton, Mr. W. F., "Artichoke," 34, Farringdon Street; Judd, Mr. Francis, "Britannia," 36, Fish Street Hill; Judges, Mr. S., "Coach and Horses," Chiswell Street; Jezzard, Mrs. Ada, "Baptist's Head," 30, St. John's Lane, Smithfield; McGregor, Ltd., Messrs. Patrick, 9 and 11, Copthall Avenue; Ross, Mr. D. A., "London Tavern," Fenchurch Street; Tolputt, Mr. R. S., "Crown," Crown Court, Fleet Street; Friedel, Mr. F., 35, Moorgate Street; Freitag, Mr. H., 179, City Road; Adey and Co., Messrs., 98, Fleet Street; Cantwell, Mr. L. B., "Britannia," 157, City Road; Adams, Mr. E. G., "Blue Anchor" Restaurant, Fenchurch Street; Elliston, Mr. C. H., "King's Arms," Moreland Street, City Road; Sanders, Mr. G., 54, Curtain Road; Poulon, Mr. A., 50, Bishopsgate; Adler, Mr. H., 22, Eldon Street.

WAR on High Prices for Artificial TEETH

Well-known London Firm decides to supply complete sets from 15/-

A revolutionary move has been decided upon by the Williams' Teeth Institute, of 293, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, London, W.C.

Briefly, they have issued a declaration of war against the excessively high prices for Artificial Teeth and Tooth Work which have too long reigned in this country.

Here is the new scale of charges drawn up by the Directors for the benefit of the public :—

Teeth Painlessly Extracted	**1s. 0d.**
(Or with Gas)	**2s. 0d.**
Decayed Teeth Stopped	**2s. 0d.**
Single Artificial Tooth	**2s. 0d.**
Complete Set of Artificial Teeth from	**15s. 0d.**
Gold Filling	**10s. 6d.**

Gold Crowns equally cheap. Bridge and Bar Work a Speciality.

Just compare the above with the much higher fees charged elsewhere for similar, or even inferior work, and note the difference.

IS NOT THIS A REVOLUTION

well worth making? A reform to gladden all who want new teeth or who want to keep their teeth in good order but cannot afford to pay the excessive prices hitherto charged.

People have allowed their teeth to slowly decay, deteriorate, and break away rather than pay the prices charged for filling, repairing and extracting.

And consequently they have seriously suffered in Health, as Medical testimony shows. For bad teeth, bad breath, bad digestion, and bad health all go together; the bad teeth being the source from which all the other evils spring.

This Photo shows the disfiguring effect of missing teeth.

TEETH WITHOUT PLATES A SPECIALITY.

In future, however, by reason of the reduced prices, these same people will visit Williams' Teeth Institute.

WONDERFUL REDUCTION IN PRICES.

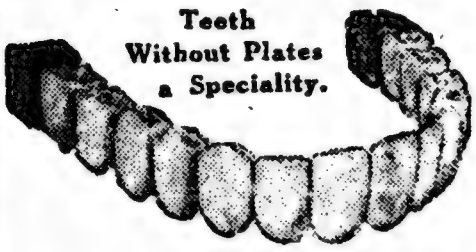
For who will pay 2s. 6d. for having a tooth out for 5s. or 7s. 6d. with gas when at Williams' Teeth Institute they can have it extracted for 1s. ?

Who will consent to be mulcted in heavy charges for a set of artificial teeth and then be kept waiting for weeks before they are fitted, when at this well-known London establishment they can be supplied with a complete first-class set for 15s., and if necessary can be paid for by instalments.

No, for those troubled with their teeth—whether men, women, or children—all roads in the future will lead to Williams' Teeth Institute, and Londoners are indeed fortunate in having such an up-to-date establishment in their midst. Write them, to-day for valuable book "GOOD TEETH FOR ALL." IT WILL BE SENT YOU FREE on receipt of a halfpenny stamp to cover the postage to your address. Or call at your earliest convenience at the Williams' Teeth Institute, 293, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. You will be shown specimens of the beautiful work of the Institute, and be given advice on the care of the teeth free.

Don't miss this opportunity, but write or call to-day. You cannot miss the Institute; it is only 2 minutes' walk from King's Cross Station. The "Piccadilly and Brompton Railway" will take you there, and trams and 'buses from all parts pass the door. Name this paper. Telephone, 1441 North.

This Photo shows the beautifying effect of perfect teeth.



Teeth Without Plates a Speciality.

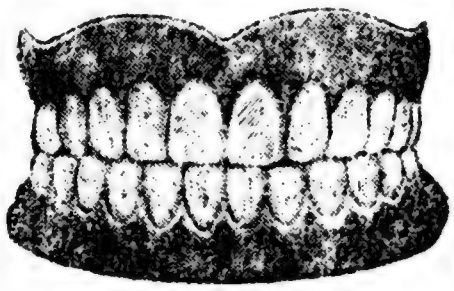
Public invited to see specimens of the work of Williams' Dental Institute.

A SET OF TEETH CAN BE SUPPLIED WITHIN FOUR HOURS IF NECESSARY.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CALL TO-DAY FOR FREE CONSULTATION, OR WRITE FOR FREE BOOK.

Country Patients can have their teeth extracted and be fitted and supplied with new ones the same day.



Williams'

DENTAL SURGERY

293, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, LONDON, W.C. D. D. & CO

THE SHEFFIELD MARKET MUDDLE.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

[In the following article our Special Commissioner describes the extraordinary situation which has arisen regarding the provision of new markets for Sheffield.]

THE CITY FATHERS' DILEMMA—A FIVE YEARS DISCUSSION—HOW THE MONEY GOES.

For many a year now the Sheffield markets have been a disgrace. They are scattered about haphazard, and when discovered are hopelessly out-of-date and inadequate.

A FIVE YEARS' DISCUSSION.

For the last five years the situation has been acute, and every candidate for municipal honours, irrespective of party has thundered forth that if *he* is elected, things would soon change. The promises ended in the usual way. When the "Liberals" were in power they got out a scheme which looked as if something was going to be done, a lot of property was purchased, and it was decided that a nice new street should be constructed, leading to the railway station. As soon as the scheme was settled, and before a start could be made, the "Opposition" came into power, and the idea was promptly thrown overboard. Then came a deadlock.

HOW THE MONEY GOES.

The Improvements Committee wanted the new street and market, the Markets Committee had a lot of property for which they had paid dearly, and which they desired to unload on to the Improvements Committee. That body however, would have none of it. A syndicate then approached them with an offer to take over one of the old markets for nearly two hundred thousand pounds. The offer was refused, numberless inspections and reports, all of which cost money (it was only *ratepayers'* money!), were made, but no real progress resulted. At last, in despair, it was decided to appoint a Joint Committee, comprising representatives of each of the old bodies, with a sprinkling of outsiders, to see if a start could not be made.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE STRUGGLE.

So the Joint Committee met, and have been meeting now for just on *two years*. As the result of their deliberations, they decided to boil down both the schemes and pick out the good in each. The new scheme embraced the pulling down of the old market and erection of a new one at an immense cost, while the buildings would still be scattered about as before. The fact that it was possible to combine all the markets in one and then have valuable land left over for sale, did not seem to have struck the members up till this point, but a new Daniel had come on the scene.

A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

What is called the Viaduct scheme was suddenly put forward. It was not quite a new idea, but had been altered in many points by a clever and capable architect. Its main feature was the running of a viaduct whereby the traffic would be relieved, the city would get an adequate market, covering about seven acres of floor space, a wholesale market underneath, a straight road to the railway station, and a fine square in the centre. The idea did not require the purchase of a single inch of land, as it was all on Corporation property. In addition to this, the scheme provided a new street on which large shops could be built, and from which the city would profit both in rent and rates—but, above all, it would enable the covered site of the old market to be sold at an estimated price of £200,000, which sum would go a very great way towards paying for the cost of the new work.

Certain public men at once realised that this was the only satisfactory solution, and the city was convinced that a great improvement was at last on the stocks. The citizens, however, reckoned without the Joint Committee, who were not going to see their two years' wrangling go for nought. They had already just delivered their own plan, and although they admitted the viaduct scheme to be the better, said it was too late to take the new scheme in hand—despite the fact that not one penny has yet been expended on the original scheme. So the ratepayer has to be satisfied with a thing which will not do half the good, and cost twice as much. It is time they went in for a business council in Sheffield. There is a strong branch of the John Bull League in the city, and it is watching developments.

"HOW FISHERMEN ARE VICTIMISED."

A WORD FOR THE LINE FISHERMEN.

[A Scotch correspondent speaks in defence of the Line Fishermen, claiming that they often exercise great forbearance in spite of their livelihood being taken from them by illegal means.]

A Kincardineshire reader sends us the following interesting letter apropos of our Special Commissioner's recent article:—

The law which is most frequently broken by trawlers is, as your contributor says, poaching within the limit, but the limit is not three miles from land. It is a series of straight lines drawn from point to point, and it is necessary for a trawler to be three miles outside of the line, so you can see to be outside the limit in some parts of our coast a trawler would require to be from six to seven miles off the land.

I agree that fishing is often a very precarious method of earning a living—for the line fishermen it is certainly so, but not for trawl fishermen, as can be seen from the prosperity of the trawling industry and the big dividends paid by trawling companies; also, many of the trawl fishermen are paid their wages whether the boat makes a good trip or not.

Then, also, the trawler can put to sea in almost any weather, whereas in the winter time the line fisherman cannot work for weeks at a stretch. It is not the fact of one boat seeing another apparently well loaded that tempts them to poach; it is the fault of the employers. A trawl skipper may go to sea and make a poor catch, which causes him in many cases to be severely reprimanded; then, should he be unfortunate in the following two trips, he considers himself lucky if he is not dismissed. As a new skipper invariably signs on a new crew, the men must also look out for another boat. Trawl skippers are also paid according to the amount of fish they land, which is another incentive to make them poach.

On this part of the coast to which I belong many poachers trawl within the limit continually during bad weather, and although we have a coastguard station here the authorities make no attempt to take any of them, although they could do so very often; neither is the Government boat seen here except at rare intervals, although it must be well known to them that trawlers are frequently poaching in this locality. The line fishermen could secure the conviction of many trawlers poaching within the limit, but there is no organisation here such as your Commissioner mentions for the purpose of prosecuting poachers, nor has the Vigilance Association ever been heard of.

The line fishermen are certainly the natural enemies of the trawler, as is to be expected—a trawler poaching within the limit is not only depriving them of their livelihood by taking the fish close in shore, but also, should they have cod nets or creels for the purpose of taking crabs, a trawler poaching is liable to run foul of them and destroy them, and the line fishermen have no redress, as they generally do not know the offenders and it has always been represented to them, so far as I believe, that if they prosecute any trawler for poaching they must conduct the prosecution themselves and bear the expenses of the case.

As to the point about fishermen giving evidence against trawlers, they are all quite aware of the build of a trawler, the majority of them at some time or other having been engaged as trawl fishermen. The name or colour of the funnel of the ship would not interest any of them while capturing a poacher—the number is all that is necessary, and as it is painted white, and generally in characters about five times bigger than that of the name, it could be distinguished much easier. Line fishermen are also quite aware that the number is always carried on the funnel, as well as on the bow or quarter of the ship, and as no trawler would ever think of poaching in the daylight it can be easily seen that the men could identify the number without seeing the name of the ship or colour of the funnel.

Line fishermen have a very hard time of it in comparison to that of the trawler, and unless the Government does something very soon to assist them by State-aid to put motor-power in their boats there will be no necessity for any limit, as line fishing will be a thing of the past, with thousands of men thrown out of employment.

OUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT SCHEME.

Owing to the very large number of competitors, the number of prizes has been increased from 500 to 1,500; the presents have been duly dispatched.

Our Great Football Competition.
£3,000 IN PRIZES.
For Particulars see page 958.
Coupons from *Lotinga's Weekly* are also available.

Messrs. J. S. Fry & Sons, Ltd.

(The Great Cocoa Manufacturers), write:—

"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is THE work par excellence for every business man to possess."

See below.

What is the Business Encyclopædia?

The "Business Encyclopædia" is like no other work in the world. It deals with nothing but business. While there are many Encyclopædias in the market, all professing to be of universal knowledge, they all exclude practical affairs; they ignore the multifarious interests of the business man. The object of the "Business Encyclopædia" is to afford this special information. It is therefore no luxury, but a real business accessory a tool to help you to carve your way to success. It is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work. Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet, or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card index systems, you can learn it here. It is

Indispensable to the Man who wishes to Succeed.

In the "Business Encyclopædia" the ambitious man will find every detail relating to the thousands of matters on which he wishes to inform himself in order to increase his value in the commercial market.

The "Business Encyclopædia" will prove equally valuable to the mature business man. For with this work beside him the most diffident man may acquire confidence in his own capability, and proceeding to put his own ideas into practice, may make of his business life a sure success. It is knowledge that counts nowadays; the man who wants to succeed in business must have specialised business knowledge.

Written by actual Successful Business Men.

And the men who have written the "Business Encyclopædia" are successful business men themselves. They include such men as Richard Burbidge (Managing Director Harrod's Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), A. W. Gamage, John Lawrie (Managing Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing Director J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), Sir Thomas Dewar, Joseph Fels (of Fels Naptha Soap), J. H. Rosenthal (Managing Director Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd.), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), and many others equally well known.

THREE OPINIONS.

Sir CLIFFORD J. CORY, M.P., writes, October 12, 1911:

"I find the work a most useful one. It seems crammed full of most interesting and valuable information on business points that are daily arising."

A CLERK'S OPINION:

Mr. G. W. READ, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.: "I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

"£400 off Income-Tax Assessment":

A Dublin Trader writes: "You will be interested to hear that I have been fortunate in securing an abatement of £400 off this year's income-tax assessment. This has been brought about by the careful study of the articles on income-tax in the 'Business Encyclopædia,' and without any outside or expert help whatever. I have been told that it is very rare for small business firms to be so fortunate."

A FREE BOOK.

The publishers have compiled a handsomely-illustrated book on Business Success, which will be sent to you POST FREE. It tells you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

To the CANTON PUBLISHING CO., Ltd.,
34, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of the book on Business Success, describing the "Business Encyclopædia."

NAME .....

(Send this form or a postcard.

ADDRESS .....

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

A STORY FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST.

By Richard Morton.

The Old Man was packing up. He had received notice to quit, and liked it not.

It did seem rough on the poor old chap, for he was very decrepit, and short and wheezy in the wind. He was going lame, too. His apartment was up in the top attic, as near to heaven as it was possible to get. His rheumy eyes peered and blinked into the one big box which was to hold his luggage, but the funny part of the thing was that he seemed to have no luggage to put into it. He was packing up, but he had nothing to pack.

He tried to straighten his bent back, and rubbed his aching forehead with a trembling hand.

"Upon my word," he meditated, "I wonder where the things have vanished to? When I came here, this box was full. It contained no less than three hundred and sixty-five days, twelve months, fifty-two weeks, and I forget how many hours, but it seemed an incredible number to start with. Now, I have not a month left, or a week, or even a day. Here's just one little portion of an hour to stow away in the corner—hullo! why, this little bit seems to be slipping away, too! Well, well, if I have to go they cannot say I am taking much with me."

He rammed his fraction of an hour—it was about a quarter, really—into a corner of his box, shut down the lid with a slam, turned the key in the lock and put the key into his pocket, and then sat down on top of the box, as though to keep his last remaining portion of time safe and sound. The poor old chap failed to notice that it was fast escaping through the keyhole.

"My word!" the old man went on ruminating, "but this is an ungrateful world that I was pitchforked into, and am now being turned out of. Haven't I been good to everybody? Haven't I worked like a galley-slave, never stopping by day or night, but always doing my best and hardest?"

A voice came from the landing, just outside his door. "Now then, old Eleven, time's nearly up. Don't sit there jabbering away in the dark."

All right, all right, I'm nearly ready. But you are unkind to turn me out like this. Look at the good things I've given you."

The answer was a scornful laugh, and a mocking ejaculation, "Good? I like that!"

"Didn't I give you a Coronation and a Delhi Durbar? Answer me that. Didn't I give you a record summer, a spell of fine weather that beat everything you ever remembered? Answer me that. I've been a good, kind year to you, I have."

"What about the other side of the ledger?"

"How could I help the railway strike, and the coal strike, and the colliery accidents, and the wars and rumours of wars? I'm not responsible for human nature. You give me all the blame, and deny me any credit."

"And you," said the voice, "claim all the credit and forget the woe."

"I think the balance is on the right side," whimpered old Eleven. "At any rate, you might grant me a little respite; a month, a week, a day—just four-and-twenty hours."

"You know it's impossible," said the voice. "Your room's let, and the young gentleman is coming in almost immediately. I'm surprised at your obstinacy. You old fellows are unbearable. You had plenty of warning, and ought to have been prepared."

"Oh, grant me an hour—just an hour!"

"Time's up," said the other, "and you know it, just as well as I do. Come along, now."

The old fellow shouldered his box, for he was aware he must bow to the inevitable. Some bells began to ring, and he opened his door and commenced, staggering and weak, to descend the stairs.

A boy was bounding up them. He jostled old Eleven, took no notice of him, and went onward, singing and smiling.

"All right," said the poor old gentleman, "you may laugh now, but your end will come, just like mine. And perhaps you won't have so good a time, either!"

The boy looked round, wondering where the voice came from. . . . There was nobody there.

TAXI-DRIVERS' GRIEVANCES.

THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAUFFEUR.

Apropos of our paragraph on London Taxi Drivers' Grievances, a Brighton chauffeur points out that their brethren in certain provincial towns are even worse off than themselves. This is how they compare with Brighton, where the cars are larger, petrol dearer, and consumption far heavier:

	£	s.	d.
Average receipts for week of 6 days		6	0
Driver's proportion at 25 per cent.	£1 10	0	
Less:—			
15 galls. Petrol—11d. per gall ..		13	9
Company for uniform 6d. per day ..		3	0
Company for washing 6d. per day ..		3	0
Insurance		3	0
Tips to washer, etc.		1	6
Cab minder		1	0
Meals, 1s. per day		6	0
		31	3

As without tips this leaves the driver 1s. 3d. out of pocket on a week's work, it bears out our statement that the taxi-driver depends entirely upon the generosity of the public for his living. Our correspondent adds that the insurance covers third party only, and that the driver has to pay for all damage done to the car by himself, and is responsible for all bad debts. The Company demand all extras.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE HANDICAP.

THE GREAT ENGLISH RACE OVER THE COURSE OF LIFE.

By W. H. Ferrier.

Probable Starters, Pedigrees, and Jockeys.

The Stamp, by Servant out of Pocket. Gum up.

Done, by Taffytus out of Threepence. T.H.E. Counter up.

Nimble Ninepence, by The Layer out of Fourpence. T. Axes up.

The Mistress, by Overwork out of Temper. Fed up.

Appointments, by Good out of Evil. Buck up.

The Loafer, by Malingerer out of Work. D. Rink up.

Oppression, by Legislation out of Joint. S. O. Mething up.

Redress, by Threatening out of Office. Ayr up.

The Inspector, by The Window out of My House. H. Urry up.

Insolvent, by Premiums out of Capital. B. Anker up(t).

Breakdown, by Nerves out of Order. B. Ust up.

Cremation, by The State out of Pity. F. Inish up.

Latest from the Course.—The Mistress and the Inspector scratched 9.30 a.m.

Later.—Appointments and Cremation were going strong, but The Loafer was not at exercise this morning. Oppression, who will now be ridden by the Welsh jockey Taffytus, has left Limehouse Station for the course. A large wager, we hear, has been made between the owners of Oppression and Redress, and one of them will receive quite a good big cheque. Fears are entertained in well-informed circles that The Stamp will stick at the Post and get her jockey into hot water. Nimble Ninepence is taking well at 11s. 3d. to a dollar, but the Penciller has been known to Welsh. He is attracting business by bursting forth into poetry, but one of his brother scribes rather gives him away. It goes thus:—

The Welcher:

Come here, you sons of toil, and back
Your choice; ninepence to four I'll lay it.

His Opp.:

And when you're dead or got the sack,
He'll ask his boss if he may pay it.

CANADA AND ENGLAND.

Some of the French-Canadian papers are not very complimentary in their references to England. For example, referring to the recent elections, *Le Devoir* says that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's defeat was due in part "to the votes of immigrant Englishmen," and describes Sir Wilfrid himself as "the victim of his policy of intense immigration which has made of Canada a refuge for wharf rats of Liverpool and London." We believe that *Le Devoir* is a paper owned, or, at any rate controlled, by Mr. Bourassa, the leader of the Nationalist movement in Canada.

THE MODERN PHYSICIAN.

By Dr. ANDREW WILSON.

A work that justifies its claim to be a complete guide to the attainment and preservation of health—as well as a practical teacher of the nature and symptoms of all diseases—is a work to be hailed as a household friend. Such a book is "The Modern Physician," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.

The section devoted to Hygiene, otherwise known as Preventive Medicine, includes the full exposition of the laws of health, and special attention is devoted to physical culture. The important subject of First Aid and

Ambulance Work

is fully treated and lavishly illustrated.

Descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton, muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs of sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated.

In this connection the coloured "manikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

The section devoted to "The Family Medicine Chest" gives the description, uses and doses of drugs, used as drops, lotions, ointments and gargles.

The Health of Women.

Volume V. deals entirely with the Health and Diseases of Women. It will be found useful to mothers who wish their daughters to grow up into healthy women. Midwifery and the diseases of infants and children are fully treated.

There is a section devoted to Invalid Cookery, and a complete series of physicians' prescriptions will be found both reliable and useful.

The Book for the Home.

It is safe to say that in a large household embracing human items of every age or sex, the point of doubt or difficulty, the unexpected accident or emergency, could not arise that could not be immediately and satisfactorily dealt with with this splendidly practical work at hand.

Two Opinions.

Mr. WM. WEBB, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool, writes:

"'The Modern Physician' ought to be in every household in the land, and it is certainly no fault of yours should it not be so, for the price at which it is published is reasonable, and the terms of subscription exceptionally easy."

Mr. A. H. HART, 18, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:

"Three things especially impressed me: the up-to-date character of the work; the simplicity of the language used; and its practical value. It is creditable alike to Editor and Publisher."

A FREE BOOKLET

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, illustrated booklet on "The Modern Physician," and particulars of your plan whereby the five volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

THE ILLUSTRATED CHAMBERS'S ENCYCLOPÆDIA.

A REMARKABLE OFFER.

First Payment 2/3 only.

Lord Morley once said that it was a matter for regret that there are so many houses in England—some of considerable social pretension—where you will not find a good Encyclopædia of Reference. "That is a very discreditable fact," he said, "because I defy anybody to take up a single copy of the newspaper and not come upon something in it upon which if his interest in the affairs of the day were active, intelligent, and alert as it ought to be, he would consult a Cyclopædia of Reference."

If you agree with Lord Morley as to the necessity for an Encyclopædia, you will be wise to send the Coupon at the foot of this column for a free booklet about the "Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia." For Chambers's is the *only* work that really fulfils the purpose. It is the only work at a moderate price that can be depended on for reliable information on any and every subject.

WHAT CHAMBERS'S CONTAINS.

It consists of ten Handsome Half-Leather Volumes, 200,000 Subjects, with cross-references, 8,000 pages of new, clear type, written by 1,250 contributors of world-wide distinction. There are 4,000 engravings, superbly reproduced, and 50 magnificent maps. There are also over 50 coloured plates, the finest ever produced in connection with any work of reference. Its contributors include 1,250 of the most famous men of our times. Yet you can get the latest edition of the "Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia" for a first payment of 2s. 6d. only, the balance being paid in small monthly instalments.

THREE OPINIONS

LORD CURZON OF KEDLESTON writes:

"I have always regarded Chambers's Encyclopædia' as the most concise, reliable, and useful compendium of universal knowledge anywhere to be found within a single volume."

Right Hon. H. H. ASQUITH writes:

"It is a work of the utmost value."

VISCOUNT HALDANE writes:

"I have known 'Chambers's Encyclopædia' for many years, and have found it a very valuable book of reference. I shall rely on this new edition as a very comprehensive collection of knowledge, readily together in a most convenient form for reference, and hope to use it almost daily."

A FREE BOOK.

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Kindly send me free of any charge or obligation on your book on the "Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia," and particulars of the special terms of delivery on a first payment of 2s. 6d.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

BALZAC'S BEST NOVELS.

Complete and Unexpurgated.

First Payment 2/6 only.

In all the history of literature there has been no novelist quite like Balzac, none who studied human nature quite so closely, none who drew what he saw quite so exactly as he saw it. Balzac was to literature what Napoleon was to arms—a man of giant brain and unlimited fertility of resource. To his daring realism and to his mighty pen he owes his enduring claim for there is no author you can read and re-read with such pleasure, none so badly to be missed from any library.

Readers will be glad of the opportunity now offered of learning more about the great prose epics of Balzac and, by sending the coupon below, of ascertaining, free of cost how they can procure a specially selected portion of his best works for a small first payment of only 2s. 6d.

This edition has been expressly edited by Mr. Clement Shorter, editor of the *Sphere*, to provide a representative edition at a moderate cost.

This is his choice:—

Cousin Bette.	The Lily of the Valley.
Cousin Pons.	The Illustrious Gaudissart.
La Duchesse de Langeais.	The Village Cure.
The Ursulines of the Cat and Racket.	The Country Doctor.
Gobseck.	The Magic Skin.
Old Goriot.	The Unknown Masterpiece.
Eugenie Grandet.	

What Clement Shorter says:

"Something has been said of the fact that the publishers advertise their Balzac is 'unexpurgated.' This is of the utmost importance. The charge that a translator 'betrays' is justified where there is a prudent attempt to modify and alter phrases in the interests of Mrs. Grundy. Nothing can justify that. When face to face with a great classic we want the book as near as possible as the author presented it.

"Altogether it would be impossible to speak too highly of the excellence of translation of this edition of Balzac's novels."

The whole forms 14 fine volumes, handsomely bound in green and gold. The illustrations are by many of the foremost French artists, and the frontispieces are etchings printed from copper-plates. The originals were exhibited in the Salon.

A FREE BOOKLET

To The Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, detailed prospectus of "Balzac's Best Novels," with terms of easy payments.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Lord Haldane, War Minister, London.

DEAR LORD HALDANE,—It has occurred to me that you may like to hear the views of the men in regard to the £50,000 barracks at Windsor, now occupied by the 2nd Grenadier Guards, for of course they naturally do not tell you things as freely as they tell them to me—strictly under the rose. Well, the fact of the matter is that on first impression they do not think much of their quarters; at any rate, they tell me they like the freedom of the old style much better than the comfort of the new, though they admit that this may be because they feel somewhat strange in the novel surroundings. As one of them writes, "You see, JOHN, comfort's all right when you've been used to it, but comfy is as comfy does, and it takes a deal of living up to, I should think, from what I understand of it."

The fact is, my dear Hal, I believe they miss the old barrack room. From the point of view of you and me and the doctors, and the health of Mr. Atkins himself, I have not a doubt that the old system was atrocious in many ways, but there was a sense of spaciousness and freedom about it not to be found in the one-man-one-room idea upon which the new barracks have been constructed. For instance, the men could have a "chortle" to each other long after they were officially supposed to be asnooze, and when they wished to sleep and somebody was snoring as if to wake the dead, they could shy their boots at him. They can do neither of these things in the new pill boxes, and that is why they behold the old order changing and giving place to the new with less enthusiasm than you and I anticipated. However, I grant that you have done your best. Time settles all things—even snorers. Seasonable remembrances to Asquith and all the boys.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. George Turner, Treasurer, The King's Cross Slate Club, London.

DEAR TREASURER,—Just about this time of the year many saving and thrifty souls are annually subjected to gloom and misery by the secretaries or treasurers of slate clubs and similar institutions who are false to their trust. You know as well as I do that this Christmas has again been a time of default; officials of clubs have failed to turn up on sharing-out night, the money is missing—it is gone with the officials, and men and women have to deny themselves clothing and dinners, as well as the little luxuries they have looked forward to.

Now, Mr. Turner, this is not your way of doing things. On behalf of your club you had deposited £30 in the Birkbeck Bank, with the full knowledge of your committee. When the bank collapsed the club lost £15, because the bank repaid only fifty per cent. of the deposit. You were not responsible for the bank's failure; you were not liable, nor to blame in any way.

What did you do? With a sense of honour truly remarkable and with a courage that cannot be too highly commended, you took the burden on your own shoulders. You set about saving the money out of your weekly wages, and you have succeeded. It must have been a proud day for you when you paid your members in full.

You are a treasure of a treasurer, and I wish all the others were like you. I admire your fine spirit, and I salute you.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Executive Committee, Yorkshire Miners' Association, Normanton.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—Merely as a matter of information, will you tell me whether I am correctly informed that for the appointment of Assistant Secretary in your Society, a job worth about £3 a week, four or five ballots have already been held at a cost of £480 each, there or thereabouts; that the number of candidates has been thereby reduced to four, and that two other ballots will be necessary before the appointment can be filled? I always thought the Labour associations were affairs of business, but when I hear that an appointment of the kind by this process costs £3,000 at least before it can be filled, I begin to think I am amazingly wrong, or that somebody is pulling my leg. You will excuse my enquiries, I am sure.

JOHN BULL.

To the Secretary, Medical Council, London.

SIR,—What is this "infamous conduct in a professional respect" with which your Council stigmatise men of the most blameless reputation? Take the case of Dr. Axham—to say nothing of Dr. Robertson Wallace. Some years ago he attended demonstrations by Mr. Barker, the manipulative surgeon of Park Lane. They were not demonstrations of treatment by orthodox means. Cases which the specialist surgeons and private practitioners and public hospitals had abandoned as incurable were either cured or relieved with almost incredible success. One after another, through demonstration after demonstration, patients entered the operating room of Mr. Barker with a long history, varying between months and years, of ineffective treatment by orthodox surgeons at the top of their profession. They could not cure, therefore nobody else could—that was their argument.

Dr. Axham saw with his own eyes; he heard with his own ears. He knew that in the process of cure there was sometimes a process of unrelieved pain. To dissipate the pain Dr. Axham lent his able assistance as an anæsthetist. The patients grew and multiplied; the more they multiplied the wider spread the cloud of witness. Orthodox medical men, unable to cure or relieve their private patients, knowing nobody in their profession who could cure them, sent their cases to Mr. Barker—even came for treatment themselves. But as the patients streamed out cured or relieved from the house in Park Lane, the fees of the orthodox practitioners decreased. Then it was your Council perceived Dr. Axham, sir. They could not hurt Mr. Barker; they could only boycott him and declare infamous any man who assisted him in his work. In their scandalous jealousy they did a scandalous injustice. They struck Dr. Axham off the medical register because he was rendering painless the operations of Mr. Barker, and this after forty-nine years of work in a profession on which he has shed lustre rather than shame.

Perhaps when Parliament is less congested it will have time to attempt the righting of such disgraceful wrongs.

JOHN BULL.

To the Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

YOUR LORDSHIP,—The Quarter Sessions and Assizes for the county of Anglesey are held at Beaumaris, situate in an extreme and all but inaccessible corner of the island, being three miles from the nearest railway station. Though your lordship may not be aware of the fact, citizens called to serve on the jury are put to great inconvenience and expense, for many have to travel a distance of 15 to 20 miles by road, and, when they arrive, find there is not sitting accommodation for one-quarter of them in the antiquated barn which in the name of our Sovereign Lord the King serves for the court house of his justice.

On the other hand, my Lord, a court-house has been erected at Llangefni, in the centre of the county, easily accessible by rail from all parts. This court house is a modern and well-equipped edifice, at present utilised by the magistrates for purposes of Petty Sessions and by His Honour for his judgments on those who owe but will not, or perhaps cannot, pay debts. It is therefore felt by a very large body of public opinion in the island that the continued holding of Assizes and Quarter Sessions in the barn at Beaumaris constitutes a grievance as to which the remedy is obvious, and I am consequently desired to address myself to your lordship, in the hope that you will exert your influence with those concerned to obtain a much-needed change. 'Nuff said.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George.

DEAR CHANCELLOR,—In wishing you a Happy New Year, may I take the opportunity of impressing upon you the undesirableness of thrusting too many good things upon the public? It is like a company paying big dividends—the shareholders get spoilt and restive! That "rare and refreshing fruit," for instance, "for the parched lips of the multitude." You see they don't like it. Try beer. And, by the way, be sure to visit the *coiffeur*, or you'll have all the small boys crying out "There's Ayr"!

JOHN BULL.

To Judge Edge, County Court, Clerkenwell.

Note your complaint perjury increasing in County Courts, but remember that people also increasing, and all men liars likewise most ladies.

BULL.

CHANGING THE CALENDAR.

TO KEEP PACE WITH THE TIMES.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

End of Year Markets Overshadowed by Stiff Money Rates, and New Year Looked Forward to for Relief —Another Jump in Royal Mail Shipping Shares.

There is no doubt that a bad time has to be got over in the Money Market until the turn of the year, as Berlin has to borrow very heavily here and elsewhere, and is paying very dear rates for loans. Once we get into the new year matters will right themselves. The *Union-Castle* deal has caused a further rise in the leading shipping stocks, and *Royal Mails* are now at the record level of 104, while *Union-Castles* are at 31½. I do not know that it is a good thing for trade generally that these companies should thus obtain monopolies, as no doubt it means higher freight rates. *Cunard* are firm at 18½. The Yankee Market is playing its usual pranks, up one day and down the next, and it would almost appear as if the receivership of the *Wabash* was friendly, as under it the control will pass to the Kuhn Loeb interests, instead of the discredited Gould group. The "Bears" are exceptionally active in *Kaffirs* and *Rhodesians*. As regards the former, it is hardly likely that any important recovery will come before the new year, but a rally is in progress. With regard to *Rhodesians*, however, it is more than likely that the "Bears" will have an early demonstration of what is going to happen to them. It is said, for instance, that the *Goldfields* Company had arranged to take all the shares of the *Rhodesia Exploration* and its allied companies at certain prices, and that they will insist upon delivery at the end-December settlement. The heavy fall in *Spies* shares to 24s. 9d. has disorganised the Oil share market for the time being. It is, however, to be noted that the *Maikop Victory* and *Black Sea Oilfields* companies are still producing about their recent weekly quantities, and that the *Maikop Pipe Line's* new pumps at Shirvansky are now in operation, which will mean larger deliveries.

Kaffir Dividends, Good and Bad—The Great Rhodesian Amalgamation.

We have now entered the period of the dividend declarations for the second half of 1911, and, as was to be anticipated, the results are of a mixed description. It was, however, practically known beforehand that disappointments would come, and, to allow of a ready comparison, I will give the dividends so far announced for the second half of 1911, the first half of 1911, and the second half of 1910:—

	Div. 2nd Half 1911.	Div. 1st Half 1911.	Div. 2nd Half 1910.
	%	%	%
May Consolidated	20	20	20
Rose Deep	20	20	20
Village Deep	5	5	5
Kleinfontein Estates	10	12½	12½
Durban Roodepoort Deep	5	—	7½
Crown Mines (10s.)	55	55	65
Geldenhuis Deep	12½	17½	12½
Rand Mines (5s.)	110	110	110
Ferreira Gold	100	100	120
Robinson Gold (£1)	12½	15	15
New Modderfontein (£1)	12½	11¼	10
Main Reef West	7½	10	12½
Cons. Main Reef	3¾	3¾	5
Knight Central	—	—	5
Witwatersrand Deep	10	25	25
New Kleinfontein	7½	7½	15
New Goch	5	7½	7½
Meyer and Charlton	20	20	20
Van Ryn	22½	22½	22½
Village M. Pf.	35	35	35
Apex	5	5	5
City and Suburban	6¼	5	5
Nigel	7½	7½	—
Robinson Deep	17½	15	12½
Simmer and Jack	7½	10	10
New Primrose	50 (a)	20	40 (b)
Witwatersrand Gold	17½	17½	17½
Ginsberg	15	10	10
New Unified	5	5	5
Glencairn	5	10	20
New Rietfontein	5	—	—

(a) Bonus 30 %. (b) Bonus 20 %.

It will be seen that the dividend of the *Rand Mines* is fully up to the estimate of 5s. 6d. per share. The *Crown Mines* also maintain their rate at 65 per cent., notwithstanding the statement that the capital expenditure has exceeded the original estimate. The *Modderfontein* shows an increase, while the *Rose Deep* fully maintains its distribution. Other distributions are unsatisfactory, and the "Bears" have turned this to good account. The dividends of the *Robinson Gold*, of the *Ferreira, Geldenhuis Deep, Durban Deep, Main Reef West*, and *Consolidated Main Reef* show a decrease, and on the *Wit Deep* the distribution is very poor; it is explained that the profit earned would have been sufficient to pay 15 per cent., but owing to the water trouble it has been resolved to retain the balance, in order to strengthen the ore reserves. The *Knight Central* has passed the dividend, against 5 per cent. last time. The *Barnato* dividends are satisfactory, and that of the *New Primrose* is exceilent. *East Rand Props.* have improved to 3¼ on a circular issued by Sir George Farrar, the chairman, who sails from South Africa for England on Wednesday, and will call a meeting of the shareholders of the Company in London for the eighteenth of January. He asks shareholders to withhold their proxies until after the meeting, while proxies already given can be withdrawn by written notice to the London secretary, *East Rand Proprietary Mines, Ltd.*, 4, London Wall Buildings, E.C. The great amalgamation in the Rhodesian market—viz., that of the Rhodesia Exploration Company with the Goldfields Rhodesia Development Company—is evidently coming off, as both companies have issued circulars, and the terms have been fixed, the Rhodesia Exploration to receive nine shares for every four of its own. It is rather surprising that this has not already brought a sharp advance, as the present price is very moderate. Some interesting developments are reported to be impending in the case of the Lonely Reef and the Falcon.

The Coming Boom in Diamonds.

I see that the *Evening Standard* and *Daily Express*, on the 20th inst., fully confirm the reports to which I have already given publicity of a big rush of diamond diggers to the Bloemhof district, on the Vaal River. Already 12,000 diggers have arrived, and a large number of claims are being staked out. There is, of course, a great demand for diamonds, and there are indications of another coming boom in diamond shares, in which the properties near the Vaal River, in the Transvaal, will no doubt greatly participate. I have already drawn attention to the shares of the *Diamond Proprietary Mines, Ltd.*, which is an active diamond producer on the Vaal River. I understand that these shares have now been taken in hand by an influential Continental firm, not unconnected with the diamond industry, and they confidently predict a speedy rise to £1 per share. The present price is 5s. for special settlement, which will probably take place in the middle of January. This looks to me a thoroughly promising speculative investment.

The Position of Home Rails—A Moderate Advance.

The agreement which has been come to between the Boards of the Home Railway Companies and the leaders of the men has removed the last obstacle to a revival in the Home Railway market, which at one time presented a scene of animation, to which it has been a stranger ever since the labour troubles entered an acute phase. Unfortunately, there are now renewed fears of a strike of coal miners in Wales. Dealings have so far been chiefly professional, and the Home Railway investor has not yet entered the market to any extent, and will probably be prevented from doing so until we get into the new year. The rise which has so far taken place is encouraging, and fully justified, and when the January dividends are declared we might confidently anticipate a further rise to a higher level of values, unless a coal strike intervenes. I wrote last on this point on November 20, and the advance which has taken place since is substantial, as will be seen from the following table:—

	Div., p.c. for 1910-11.	Highest 1910	Lowest 1911	Price Nov. 20, 1911.	Present Price.	Yield on per cent. £ s. d
North Western	6¾	134	130	136½	139	5 0 0
Great Western	6	127½	118½	121½	122½	4 17 0
Midland Deferred	3¼	66	56½	71	73½	5 5 6
North Eastern	6½	136	126½	123½	126	4 19 3
Lancs. and Yorks.	4½	92½	86½	93	95	5 0 0
Great Central 1887 Pref. ..	5	107	100	110	110	4 11 9
Lon. Bright. & S.C. Def. ..	5*	99½	82¾	98¼	105†	4 14 9
South Eastern Pref.	6	121½	104½	121	122	4 18 5
London, Chatham 1st Pref.	4½	88	66	87	90	5 0 0
Great Eastern	3½	69½	59½	68¼	70½	4 16 0
Great Northern Def. ..	2½*	52½	40¾	52	54¼	4 2 6
North Staffordshire	4½*	83½	78½	92	93	4 14 0
South Western Def.	2½†	49½	39¼	45½	47	4 10 6
Met. Dis. 4½ p.c. 1st Pref. ..	4½	87	49	88	90	5 0 0
London Electric Pref. ..	4	86	73	83	84	4 15 3
North British Pref.	3	69	64½	62	63	4 15 7

* For the year, estimated. † Last annual dividend.

These yields are still very satisfactory, while the prices are well under the highest points of this year, and substantially below those touched at one time last year. Another question now is how the wages concessions made by the companies to the men will affect dividends. In the first place, the companies are raising certain rates; secondly, the higher wages paid will make for greater efficiency. On the other hand, the companies have to pay from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per ton more for coal; but this will only affect next year's results. Meanwhile, the companies have so far for the current half-year the following gross traffic increases to their credit:—*North-Western*, £147,000; *Midland*, £109,000; *Great Northern*, £78,300; *South-Eastern and Chatham*, £68,364; *Great Central*, £65,600; *Great Eastern*, £65,200; *North British*, £54,300; *Lanca-*

shire and Yorkshire, £46,127; *Caledonian*, £30,000; *North-Eastern*, £26,436; *Brighton*, £17,436, etc. These traffic increases should at least enable the dividends to be maintained at the same level as for the corresponding half of 1910, although in some cases, especially in the more speculative stock, the market is looking for increased distribution. Thus, from 5¼ to 5½ per cent. is expected on *Brighton Deferred*, against 4¾ per cent. for 1910; from 1¾ to 2 per cent. on *South-Eastern Deferred*, against 1 per cent.; 2¾ per cent. on *Great Northern Deferred*, against 2¼ per cent. Looking at the different stocks from the investor's point of view, I should think that *North-Western, Midland Deferred, Chatham First Prefs.*, and *Brighton "A"* are the most attractive.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

MINING INVESTMENTS.—R. N. W.—Your selection of mining shares is a fair one, and Ashanti Goldfields, New Primrose, Esperanza, and Durban Roodepoort are suitable. The New Heriot, Robinson and Village Main Reef, however, have comparatively short "lives," and you might select instead Randfontein Central, New Modderfontein, and Van Ryn.

AMERICAN MINES.—SALOP.—No information is available at present, but as soon as any news transpires, I will not fail to publish the same.

PROMOTING SYNDICATE.—G. B.—You must please yourself in the matter. As far as I am aware, the people are respectable, but the proposition is a pure speculation, and you must be prepared to lose, as well as to gain a substantial profit.

£3,000 FOR INVESTMENT.—M. K.—(1) This concern have their own axes to grind, and you will find it much better in the long run to deal through a stockbroker who is a member of the Stock Exchange and can give you first-hand advice. (2) You can get up to 4 per cent. per annum in absolutely safe securities, such as India 3 per cent. at 79¼; Port of London "A" 3 per cent. stock, at 77xd.; Newfoundland 3½ per cent. bonds, at 97½; Western Australian 4 per cent. bonds, at 96½; Johannesburg 4 per cent. stock, at 100; Great Central Railway 3½ per cent. Second Debenture, at 89; and Grand Trunk Railway 5 per cent. Debenture, at 128. (3) You must please yourself on this matter.

BENEFIT CONCERN.—DENSITE.—I do not like this concern, and advise you to effect this insurance through one of the leading Life Assurance offices. Even if the latter are more costly, they are much more satisfactory, and you have absolute security.

ANGLO-FRENCH.—J. M. R. T.—This Company is in the same boat as all other South Africans, and the fall is due to the heavy depreciation in its holdings. I cannot advise you to sacrifice the shares at the present time, although I am afraid there is little prospect of a recovery, at any rate this side of the next year.

INDUSTRIALS.—W. M. S.—(1) I do not like this concern. (2) The Argentine Tobacco Company came out under good auspices, and the shares are a safe holding, although you should not load yourself up too much with the same.

RUBBERS.—A. G. S.—I do not care for these shares, but it is hardly worth while selling at the present rubbish price, even if you could get it. WEST LOTHIAN.—This Company has certainly proved very disappointing, and there is no option now but to hold in the hope of better times next year. STERLING.—There is no market for these rubber shares, and no quotation. The change of title has not brought any change in the fortunes of the Company.

£500—£600 INVESTMENT.—DRAW.—Put the money into the Preferred Ordinary stocks of Home Railways, which will give you a good and steady return, such as those of the Brighton, Midland, Great Northern, and South-Western Companies.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER.—DURAZNO.—Financial schemes and religion do not usually go well together, and I look with more than usual suspicion upon this affair. Have nothing to do with it.

MONTE CARLO.—ATREW.—If you take my advice you will have nothing whatever to do with these people or their systems. Surely your own sense will tell you that if anyone found a really reliable system they would prefer to work it for their own account, and make their own fortune before entering strangers a share in it.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—E. M. (Leyton).—The answer is in the affirmative.

BRITISH WORKMEN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—J. D. (Pentre).—The premiums are recoverable by suing and proving the fraud.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—J. C. (Stockton-on-Tees).—You could recover premiums by proving fraud. ANXIOUS ONE (Stafford).—If the facts are as you state them the Company has treated you very harshly. We regret that we can be of no assistance to you in the matter. J. M. (Liverpool).—We will look into the subject of your letter and write you in the course of a few days.

ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—A. W. (Saltash, Cornwall).—The policies are probably illegal, but we do not advise proceedings. L. C. (Shanklin).—We do not advise proceedings.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—R. S. (Blackpool).—You need be under no fear as to the stability of the Association.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—[illegible]—If the facts are as you state them, you could recover. ROSE (Plaistow).—The policy is illegal, but it will probably be paid on maturity. [illegible] the valley.—D. G. H. (Newport).—Still the policies appear to be illegal. A. H. W. (Kenilworth).—As you do not know who signed the proposal we do not advise proceedings. DOUBTFUL (Beckenham).—The policy is quite legal.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—W. S. N. (Wigan).—The Scottish Widows would be as good as any.

WELSH AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—E. H. (Sarnau).—Sue the Company in the local County Court and prove the facts.

REGIS ASSURANCE COMPANY.—S. L. (Manchester).—We think if you will look at the conditions again you will find them somewhat different from the way you state in your letter, and we do not consider you could successfully prove it for more than they offer you. D. W. (Burry Port).—If you can prove fraud you might recover. W. H. (Brighton).—We do not advise proceedings. A. C. (Lincoln).—We think the policies illegal, and that they could be recovered through the County Court. A. E. (Barrow-in-Furness).—The Refuge premiums could be recovered. Consult a local solicitor. J. M. (Streatham).—The policy is clearly illegal, and if you could prove fraud on the part of the agent you could recover.

LONDON, EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW ASSURANCE COMPANY.—S. A. C. (Tunstall).—You could recover.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—F. G. (West Finchley).—If the agent made the statement you attribute to him he was very blameworthy. R. H. H. (Newton).—Accept the Company's suggestion. S. M. (Bournemouth).—The policies seem to be illegal, but in the absence of fraud you cannot recover. L. L. (Tonyrefail).—The policies seem to be illegal, but we cannot advise proceedings unless there is additional information. W. T. J. (Cardiff).—The policy as given does not require the signature of the assured. MARY (Trefriw).—You appear to have been tricked. Consult a good local solicitor. J. H. K. (Hampstead).—You should certainly protest and refuse your consent. I [illegible] not sign for [illegible] Company to be Guardian. R. [illegible] policies probably in order, but they [illegible] a really thrift-less investment. [illegible] per annum will amount to £1 in [illegible] A. S. (Sutton).—You cannot [illegible] the [illegible] W. H. [illegible] C. M. [illegible] W. M. [illegible] J. D. [illegible] J. H. [illegible] W. S. [illegible] T. [illegible] W. [illegible] W. H. B. [illegible] find the [illegible] for your [illegible] W. C. [illegible] Brighton, etc.—If R. did not [illegible] Co. [illegible] Southend. [illegible] Tropical Gum, see the Company for [illegible] If you [illegible] Pearl [illegible] the Company [illegible] promise in writing. [illegible] you are the [illegible] money. [illegible] and w[illegible] L. H. W. [illegible] only [illegible] P. W. [illegible] —If your [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] get [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

By WALTER MOORE.

[In this column our contributor, Mr. Walter Moore, has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.]

MLLE. MIROPOWLSKI.

I do not often have sufficient courage to interview a lady, but I recently succumbed to the weird and wonderful fascination of the name of Miropowlski.

Mlle. Miropowlski, as all the world, or all the readers of JOHN BULL (which, of course, is the same thing), know, is the famous French lady barrister, who has enjoyed phenomenal success as an advocate. A few days since she paid a visit to London, and I was so fortunate as to obtain an interview with her.

Let me say at once that she is a very lovely young woman—and get it over. Consequently it will be easily understood how, as I rose from my knee and released her soft, white hand, I had rather to fumble for my brains to find a suitable opening remark.

"Shocking weather," I said at last. It was the best I could do at the moment.

"Dreadful," she agreed. To my astonishment she spoke English almost as well as I do. I was glad of it. Those French irregular verbs have always bothered me.

"I hope you have not come over here to persuade the Law Society, or whatever it is, to admit ladies to the Bar in England, and all that sort of thing," I said. "We have quite enough trouble in England as it is, you know. What with the servants stamping, the Rev. Meyer sniffing around the music halls, and Charles Brookfield being appointed Assistant Censor, our cup of bitterness is full. Don't make it run over."

"Their appeals would be irresistible."

"But it would be good for you," declared Mlle. Miropowlski. "You would get more justice."

"Don't you believe it, Mlle. Miro—er, Miro—dash!—Miro——." I tried three times, and gave it up.

"You don't know what English jurymen are like," I continued. "They look stolid and unimpressionable enough on the outside, but a pretty woman—always excepting their wives, of course—could twist any one of them around her little finger."

Mlle. Miropowlski laughed merrily.

"That is a very good reason why you should have lady barristers," she said. "They would be so successful."

"Yes; I know," I returned gloomily. "But what about the miserable prisoner who may have a more male to defend him? Where would he come in?"

"He would not come in at all," retorted Mlle. Miropowlski promptly. "But it would be a lesson to him. The next time he would brief a lady barrister."

"But he might turn over a new leaf when he came out," I suggested triumphantly, "and not need one!"

But my triumph was brief. I forgot I was talking to a professional advocate, *and* a woman.

"That would be best of all for him," declared Mlle. Miropowlski; "so it would be good all round, yes. But tell me, do you think your English barristers are *very* much opposed to the idea?"

"Oh, no," I replied. "It is not the barristers who are opposed to it—it is their wives. You know what women are—excuse me, how absurd! How should you? I was thinking for the moment that you were a man."

"My friend," murmured Mlle. Miropowlski, "I think you are a *leetle* mixed."

In the presence of such a freak as a lovely woman and lawyer combined who would not be?

BILLS THAT OUGHT TO BE PASSED.

THE FRAUDULENT ADVERTISEMENTS BILL.

[This is one of a series of suggested measures for dealing with admitted nuisances. They may be heartily supported by members of all parties—and of none.]

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—Any person or persons responsible for the publication in any form of an advertisement couched in ambiguous terms, with intent to deceive, defraud, or otherwise "take in" any of His Majesty's faithful lieges, shall be liable to summary arrest, and upon being brought before a magistrate and convicted, may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, with hard labour.

2.—The persons responsible for the publication of a fraudulent advertisement shall be:—

(*a*) The person or persons who draw up the terms of the said fraudulent advertisement;

(*b*) The person or persons who authorise the drawing up of the said fraudulent advertisement;

(*c*) The person or persons who knowingly and wittingly forward or hand the said advertisement, knowing the same to be fraudulent, to any newspaper, magazine, journal, or other printed publication; or who forward or hand the said fraudulent advertisement to any printer for the purpose of having the said advertisement printed in the form of a circular or handbill.

3.—An advertisement shall be deemed fraudulent

(*a*) When it contains an undertaking to forward an article or articles to any person or persons who may remit a certain sum of money to the advertiser, and at the same time conceals, or fails to make plain, the fact that the said article or articles will not be forwarded until further sums of money have been received by the advertiser;

(*b*) When it contains an undertaking to forward a certain article or certain articles to any person or persons who may remit a certain sum of money to the advertiser, and when the said advertiser fails to forward the said article or articles, but proposes to send other articles instead, and, when the said proposal is rejected, fails or refuses to return the money sent.

4.—No proprietor, editor, or printer of any newspaper, journal, book, magazine, or other printed publication shall be held liable for the publication of a fraudulent advertisement (as defined in Clause 3) unless it be proved that his attention had been called not less than three times to the fraudulent character of the said advertisement. The said proprietor, printer, or editor, all or severally, shall then issue a summons against the person or persons responsible for the said fraudulent advertisement; failing which they may be held equally responsible with the offending parties, and be liable to a like punishment as accessories after the fact.

5.—This Act may be cited as The Suppression of Fraudulent Advertisements Act, 1912.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

A MATTER OF TASTE.

[Camel's flesh is the latest novelty in the Parisian menu. A butcher bought four camels, and retailed their flesh.]

Still Paris, reckless, goes the giddy pace;
It now eats camel!—well, good gracious, let it;
I only say the man who has the face
To ask the host for hump, deserves to get it.

THE GULL GULLED.

[A youth, fishing on Scarborough Pier, was landing a small fish when a seagull swooped down upon it, with the result that the hook was caught in its beak. The bird flew as far as the fishing line would permit, and then dropped exhausted on the sands.]

A gull's a gull the wide world o'er,
Wherever you may look;
For instance, this poor gull was caught,
Although it took its hook.

RICARDO.

Money-Making

FOR

'JOHN BULL' READERS.

EVERY man and woman who reads this journal is naturally anxious to make money and become independent in life. Some people find the task quite easy, whilst others have met with many disappointments by their failure to grasp the opportunity at the right moment. To the latter our system would especially appeal, embracing as it does the vital principles of successful money-making; It places the man of small means on an equality with the Capitalist, so that everyone has an equal chance in the race for wealth; It brings unlimited profit in return for a small outlay without further liability, and has proved the means of substantial pecuniary gain to the thousands of grateful clients who have shared in the colossal sum of

Over Half-a-Million Pounds Sterling

£500,000

The

National Share Exchange

cordially invites you to test for yourself the reliability of a system that has undoubtedly

MADE HISTORY IN FINANCE.

The people who have already received a Share of this great distribution of profits are more or less in the same station of life as yourself, whose position makes it necessary that they should limit their liability. They did exactly what you are asked to do—filled in a Coupon similar to the one given below, and found that it led to very happy results. There is no reason why you should not accept the

Opportunity that leads to Wealth.

We give you the opportunity. Accept it without delay. It may bring big results from a small beginning. It is certainly worth trying. Start to-day by filling in the Coupon and learn how you may join the ranks of the successful.

All cheques paid to Clients can be inspected at our offices.

FILL IN THIS.

To the Secretary,
The National Share Exchange, 6t. Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet, "The Modern System of Money-Making," and other literature, which is a clear explanation of the methods which have enabled you to pay away over half-a-million pounds to clients.

J.B. 30/12/11

Name _____
(State whether Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss or Title.)

Address in Full _____

Date _____ (Please write distinctly.)

(This and all our advertisements are copyright.)

CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

BY OUR TAME PHRENOLOGIST.

[*We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—to "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.*]

LORD HALDANE.

This is an honour, my lord . . . and a coincidence . . War follows Peace, so to speak. I had the Bishop of London last week, and now along comes a Son of Mars, if I may use the term, ha, ha! . . Quite, my lord; I agree. You certainly do *not* look the part . . . But take a seat; I am anxious to get at your bumps.

The first outstanding feature of your head that strikes me is your bump of *Concentrativeness*. It is very prominent. Your long and close study of German metaphysics would account for its unusual development. But it has disadvantages in practical politics. It enables you to concentrate your mind so intensely on an abstract idea that presently you begin to mistake it for a concrete fact. That is why you imagine your Territorial scheme to be a success. No, sir, I decline to argue; in fact, it is useless to argue with a man with a head like yours.

You have no bump of *Combativeness*, using the word in its warlike sense; but you will fight and quibble over a distinction that has no difference. I find both the faculty of *Constructiveness* and of *Destructiveness* present, but the latter predominates. This will account for your destroying the Militia and erecting something rather worse in its place.

Amongst your Sentiments *Self-esteem* swells pre-eminent—the common characteristic of lawyers, philosophers, and Party politicians. Combining all three in your own person, no wonder your bump of *Self-esteem* is of appalling dimensions!

Next comes the bump of *Hope*. This also is phenomenally large. It need be; otherwise long ere this you would have begun to despair of ever seeing the Territorial Force at its full strength

Now along comes a Son of Mars.

Referring now to your *Intellectual Faculties*—for, you must understand, the bumps I have so far touched upon are simply Propensities and Sentiments—I find that *Language* is an easy first. This faculty is so marked that Language is a poor word for what it stands for. Garrulity is the better term. You have, in excess, the gift of the successful special pleader. It leads you to make extravagant and unconsidered, not to say absurd, statements. Let me give you an example. The other day you declared that a great and successful general does not necessarily make the best army organiser in times of peace. Why, my lord, there never should be a time of peace so far as the Army is concerned. It should always be prepared for war. And surely a general must know better than a lawyer and philosopher what preparedness for war means?

But I forget; bump-feeling is my business, not disputation. Pardon my seeming digression, but I am always anxious to illustrate a point.

To conclude, my lord, I am sorry to say you have no bump of *Number*. Accurate calculation is impossible to you. You can scarcely distinguish the difference between a hundred and a thousand. This will help to explain your self-deception regarding the number of Territorials available.

Very good, my lord. Then I will stop. Glad you are satisfied. Ah, that comes of having such a fine bump of *Self-esteem!* Good day, my lord, and thank you.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

BY W. M.

Slayne
By ye relentleſs scythe
Of
FATHER TYME,
Atte laſte repoſeth
Wythyn ye grave of ye paſt
Ye yeare
1911.
Borne amidſt ye turmoyle
Of
Politickall stryfe,
Itt ranne its courſe
From infancie to wearie age
Through varied scenes of pomp, of agitacion, and unreſt.
Itt witneſsed
Ye crownynge of a Kynge and Emperour,
Monarche
Of ye vaſteſt Empyre thatte ye worlde hath seen;
Itt heardе
Ye piteous groanynges
Of ye starvynge and diſtreſsed,
For
Itt was a yeare of strykes,
And beheldе
Myners, Seamenne, Dockers, Carters, Railwaie workmenne
And Tramwaie workers
Standynge idle in ye streetes of ye cities,
And runnynge uppe and downe ye lande
In furious mobbes:
And,
O woefull sounde!
Itt heardе
Ye dyinge groanes of menne
Shote downe by ye emiſsaries of Law and Order
Who were theyre brothers.
Itt saw
Parlymentarie proceedure
Reduced to
A FARCE;
Itt saw
Ye upryſynge of
Ye "Dye Hardes," and ye "Laſt Dytchers";
Itt saw
Ye introduckcion of
Ye "Kangaroo" Cloſure;
Itt saw
Ye Houſe of Lordes
Reduced to an impotente abſurditie;
Itt witneſsed
Ye moſte ludickrous shufflynge
Of Cabinette poſitiones
Thatte ye mynde of manne could conceive;
Itt witneſsed
Ye paſsionne of Lord George,
Ye indignacione of domeſtick servantes,
Ye frantyck feares of Friendlie Societies,
Ye deludynge promyſe of Nynepence for Fourpence,
And
Ye diſguſt of ye medickal profeſsione:
In shortt,
Itt beheldе
Ye introduckcione and paſsynge
Of
Ye Invalidities and Unemploimente Inſurance Bill.
Butte,
In all thys gloome,
Itt saw one gleame of lyghte,
To wit,
Ye cheerynge glow
Thatte heraldes ye comynge dawn
Of
A BUSYNESSE GOVERNMENTE!

Nineteen Eleven is no more,
'Tis in ye Limbo of ye Paſte;
Weep notte! Ye yeare thatte comes, 'tis sure,
Can't bee much worſe thanne was ye laſte!

Are your Children trying for our "Biscuit" Prizes?

WAR ON SAFETY RAZOR PRICES.

A 21/- RAZOR FOR 2/6

AND 30 DAYS' SHAVING TRIAL ALLOWED TO EVERYONE—FREE.

War has been declared on Safety Razor Prices.

Hitherto the great shaving improvement of the Safety Razor has been barred from many by High Prices. Monopolistic manufacturers and importers of Safety Razors have looked to the rich for their patrons and their profits. They have utterly ignored the great majority of men. Most men are not prepared to pay 21- each for their razors; especially when these payments are but preliminary to further continual expenditures on new blades. But with the declaration of War on Safety Razor Prices the situation is completely changed. A great firm of makers of Sheffield Steel Blade Razors has come into the field with a Safety Razor Priced at a really reasonable figure. Yet in shaving quality it is equal to the best Safety Razor ever purchased by a millionaire.

The price of this Sheffield Steel Razor is only 2s. 6d. And there are no "refill" blades to buy afterwards. This is because the blade of the new "Mulcuto" Safety Razor is made of specially tempered "*everlasting*" Sheffield Steel (the best in the world). It is not simply chopped off wafers from a band of rolled steel. The "Mulcuto" Safety Razor, therefore, gives you an absolutely perfect shave. For the better the steel the keener the edge that can be put upon it. And the keener the edge, the more comfortable the shave.

Gets into all Wrinkles.

Covers a lot of Space.

30 FREE SHAVES.

The "Mulcuto" manufacturers know more than the fact that their razor is very good. They know that "Mulcuto" users know this also. The enthusiastic letters they only receive from purchasers of the "Mulcuto" have proved this absolutely. In other words they are not only confident that their razor is the best, but they are also confident that everyone who once tried it must acknowledge this fact almost at once.

Therefore, they are not afraid to give to readers the supreme test of merit. This is a personal free trial of the "Mulcuto." Not a short trial either, but a long and thorough trial of thirty days.

This is their offer. Nothing could be more straightforward and fair.

They offer you 30 trial shaves for nothing.

They will let you have the "Mulcuto" Safety Razor on free trial for one month.

The price of the "Mulcuto" Safety Razor is 2s. 6d. Send this sum ON DEPOSIT to the "Mulcuto" Safety Razor Co. (Dept. 50), 32 and 33, High Holborn, London, W.C. In return you will be sent post free:—

ONE OF THESE SPLENDID SHEFFIELD STEEL "MULCUTO" SAFETY RAZORS with everlasting blade and special handle for stropping. You can keep this "Mulcuto" Razor for a whole month. You can shave with it every day for every other day (first shaves best) for a month. Then write a letter to us saying how much it is worth and we will send you back your deposit at the end of the 30 days. Or you can post the "Mulcuto" direct to us, and your deposit will then be returned without question.

WHERE TO WRITE FOR THIS COMPLETE "MULCUTO" SHAVING OUTFIT.

Accept this opportunity to try the "Mulcuto" for yourself free, after which you can have your money back if the Razor has not delighted you beyond measure.

Enclose your 2s. 6d. deposit to the Mulcuto Safety Razor Co. (Dept. 50), 31-33, High Holborn, London, W.C. By return of post you will receive on a month's free trial this complete "Mulcuto" shaving outfit, including:—

1. Metal Travelling Case. 2. Handle for Stropping.
3. The famous "Mulcuto" Safety Razor, fitted with "everlasting" blade of hand-forged Sheffield Steel.

For an additional 1s. you can obtain the "Mulcuto" Safety Razor (Exhibition de Luxe) mounted in Silver.

Your opportunity is now. For 30 days you can use this razor free. Only if you like it are you asked to pay anything for it. The address to write to (enclosing the deposit) is The "Mulcuto" Razor Co., 31 and 33, High Holborn, London, W.C. (over Chancery Lane Tube Station).

THIS COUPON ENTITLES YOU TO ONE MONTH'S SHAVING WITH THIS RAZOR—FREE.

To the MULCUTO SAFETY RAZOR CO. (Dept. 50), 31 to 33, High Holborn, London, W.C. (Above Chancery Lane Tube Station.)

Dear Sirs,—*A. Please send me a Nickel-plated Mulcuto Safety, with Shaving Outfit, on One Month's Free Trial—for which I enclose 2s. 6d. deposit.

* Or B. Please send me a Silver-plated Modèle-de-luxe Mulcuto Safety Razor, with Shaving Outfit, on One Month's Free Trial—for which I enclose 3s. 6d. deposit.

(* Draw pencil or pen through A or B as wanted.)

It is understood that, if I return the above Razor and Shaving Outfit within one month from date of receiving them, you will return me my deposit in full. If, however, after thorough trial, I decide to keep the Razor and Outfit, there will be nothing more for me to pay, and you will retain the deposit in full payment.

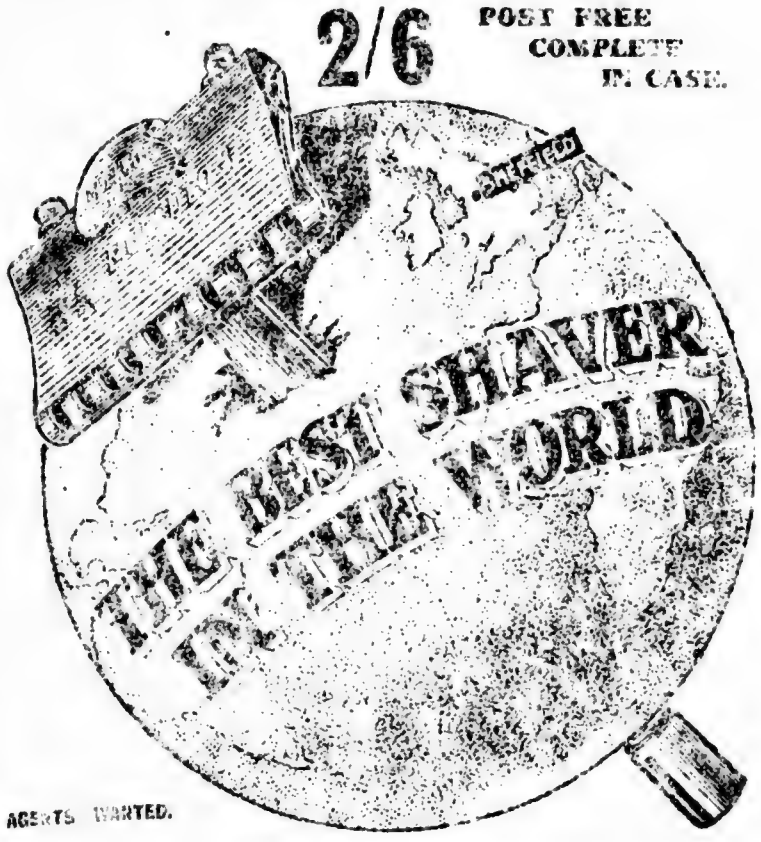
(Signed) *Name* .....

Address .....

.....

MULCUTO SAFETY RAZOR COMPANY,

2/6 POST FREE COMPLETE IN CASE.



AGENTS WANTED.

31-33, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

It is our custom to hold a weekly—imaginary—symposium upon some topic of the hour, giving the views of representative men upon both sides.]

THE LEAP YEAR PRIVILEGE.

In consequence of 1912 being Leap Year, we have asked a number of well-known personages whether they think that women should or should not take advantage of the ancient privilege of proposing marriage during the forthcoming year, and we have pleasure in appending some of the replies we have received :—

THE BISHOP OF LONDON appears to be in a dilemma. He writes :—

Although I believe in encouraging matrimony by all legitimate means, I am strongly opposed to women using their so-called traditional privilege during Leap Year.

I shall never forget the ceaseless anxiety which I suffered during last Leap Year, and I look forward to 1912 with equal, if not greater, dread.

I need a rest, and only wish it were possible for me to bury myself in a monastery until the dawn of 1913. But, alas, it is impossible.

MR. ASQUITH is one of the "Ayes." Says he :—

Not only do I believe in the continuance of the privilege, but I would go farther, and place a legal obligation on all unmarried women to make at least one proposal of marriage during Leap Year. Quite half of them would be accepted, and the result would be a very noticeable reduction in the ranks of the suffragettes. For that reason alone am I an ardent supporter of the good old tradition which, unfortunately, has fallen into disuse of late years.

As usual, MISS MARIE CORELLI advances an original view :—

I look upon the Leap Year privilege as a grudging acknowledgment on the part of man that it is only fair that woman should occasionally be permitted to exercise the right which is properly and naturally hers, and hers alone, but which has been filched from her through centuries of masculine dominance and tyranny.

Not only do I believe in the Leap Year privilege, but I consider that in this respect every year should be a Leap Year; and, further, that it should be enacted by law that no man shall have the effrontery to propose marriage to a woman in any circumstances whatever.

The woman, who bears the children, should choose her mate, and when she has made and declared her choice, it should be impossible for the mate she has selected to refuse, on pain of severe penalties.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW tries to be enigmatical as usual :—

I see no use for the Leap Year matrimonial privilege. In nine cases out of ten, Leap Year or no Leap Year, the woman *does* propose, indirectly perhaps, and subtilely, but none the less effectually.

Kindly note that my charge for this letter is one guinea. Please let me have cheque by return of post.

MR. J. M. BARRIE writes us a very human and very wise letter :—

As every woman knows, the formal proposal, if ever it existed out of royal circles and the pages of romance, is practically a thing of the past. Engagements nowadays are simply drifted into. A feeling of mutual attraction grows into love, and love brings with it an unspoken understanding. Marriage is presently referred to as a thing taken for granted, and presently it takes place. That is the way matrimony comes about in the vast majority of cases. It is the natural way, and consequently the best way. A proposal in set terms is forcing the pace, a thing to be avoided. Therefore I am averse from the privilege of Leap Year, because its exercise would be liable to bring about marriages which have not received the sanction of the gradual growth of sympathy and affection which makes a happy union.

The address of the "John Bull" Coal Club is now 34, Great Tower Street, London, E.C., and members are particularly requested to alter certificates accordingly. The telephone number is as hitherto—Avenue 143.

MONEY NEVER COMMANDED SUCH VALUE

SOMERVILLE'S

Scotch Whisky

the finest that Scotland can produce.

AS SUPPLIED TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS, HOUSE OF COMMONS, THE TREASURY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Direct from Scotland at Wholesale Prices.

These Whiskies are the very finest that Scotland produces. Whisky to be good must be old. Why accept vague or indefinite statements as to age? Packing Free. Special Terms for large orders

The Guaranteed Age is given with every bottle.

GUARANTEED AGES.	POST FREE 3 BOTTLES	Carriage paid to your railway station. 6 BOTTLES.	12 BOTTLES
4 Years Old	9/6	18/6	36/-
6 Years Old	11/-	21/6	42/-
10 Years Old	12/6	24/6	48/-

Sample Half Bottle of above can be had POST FREE 1/9, 2/- and 2/3

Fill up this order Form and post to us with your remittance TO-DAY, or cut it out and preserve it for future use.

YOU RUN NO RISK—

OUR GUARANTEE KEEPS YOU SAFE.

Established 1826.

ORDER FORM and GUARANTEE.

To Messrs. John Somerville & Co., Ltd., Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

I enclose remittance value.....for which please send me.....of your Specially Selected Fully Guaranteed .....Years old Scotch Whisky on condition that if it is not the finest Whisky I have ever tasted at the price I shall be entitled to have my money refunded.

J.B. 30/12/11.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCES.

BY OUR SPIRITUALIST REPORTER.

[We have added to our staff a Special Spiritualist Reporter, who each week will obtain and recount the opinions on questions of topical interest of some illustrious inhabitant of the astral plane.]

WILLIAM COWPER.

"We will have Cowper," I informed the medium, giving the surname its approved pronunciation, *Cooper*.

"I never drinks black beer," he growled.

I motioned him to his chair, and switched off the light. The medium's face became faintly visible—the spirit of William Cowper, most humane of poets, had taken possession of his unconscious body.

"I trust you do not resent my calling you down," I said. There was no suggestion of annoyance in Cowper's voice as he replied:—

Most humane of Poets.

"'Tis pleasant through the loop-holes of retreat to peep at such a world; to see the stir of the great Babel, and not feel the crowd. But," he added, "my ear is pained, my soul is sick with every day's report of wrong and outrage with which earth is filled."

"Remembering your reputation for deep and genuine religious feeling," I remarked, "I was anxious to have your opinion of the conduct and character of the Rev. F. B. Meyer, who has been noisy lately

"No blinder bigot, I maintain it still," declared Cowper. "He has no hearing on the prudent side."

"Your opinion is as emphatic as it is just," I said. "What a pity he does not confine his activities to what properly belongs to his profession as pastor. It seems to me he is doing more harm than good."

"He toils much," said Cowper, "to earn a monumental pile that may record the mischiefs he has done."

"But he gives us to understand that he counts his recent conduct—such as stopping the Johnson-Wells fight—unto himself for righteousness," I observed.

Cowper's voice took on a scornful tone.

"What is all righteousness that men devise, what but a sordid bargain for the skies?" he cried.

"You have about hit it," I agreed. "But it comes strangely from you, the author of the Olney hymns."

"My creed," retorted Cowper, "is, he is safe that does his best, and death's a doom sufficient for the rest."

"We will not go into the religious question," I remarked. "much as I approve of your broad opinions. Now, I daresay that you, who wrote so eloquently on behalf of the African slave, will have something to say touching the problem of poverty in this country?"

"Poverty," replied Cowper, much to my surprise, "with most who whimper forth their long complaints, is self-inflicted woe; the effect of laziness, or sottish waste."

"Come, come," I protested, "a man who is the victim of circumstances induced by the trickery and jobbery of Party politics is justified in airing his grievances."

"Ah, the age of virtuous politics is past," came Cowper's reply in a faint, receding voice.

"W'ere's that there cooper wot you spoke about?" demanded the medium. "I *'ave* got a thirst on me."

Don't Wear a Truss!

After Thirty Years' Experience Have Produced an Appliance for Men, Women or Children that Cures Rupture.

I SEND IT ON TRIAL.

If you have tried most everything else, come to me. Where others fail is where I have my greatest success. Send attached coupon to-day and I will send you free my illustrated book on Rupture and its cure, showing my Appliance and giving you prices and names of many people who have tried it and are extremely grateful. It is instant relief where all others fail. Remember, I use no salves, no harness, no lies.

I make it to your measure and send it to you on a strict guarantee of satisfaction or money refunded, and I have put my price so low that anybody, rich or poor, can buy it. I send on trial to prove what I say is true. You are the judge, and once having seen my illustrated book and read it you will be as enthusiastic as my thousands of patients whose letters are on file in my office. Fill out free coupon below and post to-day.

The above is C. E. Brooks who has been Curing Rupture for over 30 years. If Ruptured Write him to-day.

FREE INFORMATION COUPON.

C. E. Brooks, 455, Bank Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C.

Please send me by post in plain wrapper your Illustrated Book and full information about your Appliance for the cure of rupture.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Please write plainly

A 'WEIGHTY' ARGUMENT

—in favour of your weighing yourself regularly and systematically is furnished by our Personal Weighing Machine. The convenience and simplicity of this little machine are its greatest features to recommend it to household, and certainly it should be regarded as indispensable. You may be losing or gaining weight to an extent quite unsuspected to be both to your health, and from both points of view, it is essential that you should test your weight periodically.

The Personal Weighing Machine weighs with extreme accuracy and is automatic in action, and its weight card is ready for the pocket directly you step off the platform. The latest improvement is the Mirror, which is fixed on the Machine. The latest improvement is fixed with level bearings to ensure perfect working and accuracy.

The weight is only 13 lbs. and the machine stands 11 × 7½ × 8 inches high. Price **22/6**

SELFRIDGE & CO., LTD.,
Oxford Street, London, W.

SALE OF IRISH LINENS

During JANUARY Robinson & Cleaver offer all factory accumulations at very low prices.

LINEN DAMASK TABLE-CLOTHS.
2 by 2½ yards, 8/3 and 9/3 each.
2 by 3 yards, 9/11 and 11/3 each.

NAPKINS.
24 ins., 8/6, 11/6 dozen.

LINEN SHEETS, hemmed for use, 2 by 3 yards, offered at 13/6 pair.

TEA-CLOTHS, hand-embroidered, 36 by 56 ins., 3/9, 5/11, 8/6 each.

LINEN BEDSPREADS, 16/6 each.

LINEN TOWELS, hemstitched, heavy Huckaback, assorted patterns, 1,400 offered at 11/6 and 14/3 per dozen.

LINEN PILLOW CASES.
20 by 30 ins., hemstitched. For this quality, undoubted bargains at 4/2 and 4/11 pair.

HANDKERCHIEFS.—Surplus stock from Christmas trade, at exceptionally low prices.

SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED SALE LIST POST FREE.

ROBINSON & CLEAVER, Ltd.,
44E, Donegall Place, BELFAST.
LONDON. LIVERPOOL.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

BY CLEMENT SCOTT.

"ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERGROUND."

The "Don't you remembers" that echoed through the stalls, and indeed everywhere when Offenbach's famous opera bouffe was revived at Beerbohm Tree's playhouse last week, when the orchestra struck up the tunes that have been known to us from childhood, would have done your ears good to listen to. An extremely witty prologue spoken by Miss Lottie Venne—who, as Mrs. Grundy, looks the daintiest little soul imaginable—sets the ball rolling, and if only this "send off" had been as merrily kept up during the performance all would have been well. Unfortunately one of the principal characters—namely Eurydice, from whom we were anticipating so much—failed to get there, so some of the choicest numbers suffered considerably in consequence. But there was a feast of pleasure provided by Mr. Courtice Pounds, as Orpheus, and this charming artist never sang better, or danced more nimbly, than he did as "The Post Impressionist Musician." The mounting is a complete success, colour-blends, stage effects, and lighting being equally beautiful. The "Cupid" of Miss Betty Callish is quite good, and the stately Hilda Antony has never looked more enchanting than she does as the Goddess Venus.

"THE MAN IN THE CASE."

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier have commenced their engagement at the Palace Theatre of Varieties with a daring little problem sketch. It is needless to say that the acting is admirable, and the story just sufficiently naughty to create a stir in Puritanical minds. I'm not going to tell you what that story is, for that would be to give the whole show away, but go and see it for yourselves, and may it supply to all married and un-married alike, much food for reflection. Miss Vanbrugh's clinging night attire is in itself worth going to see, and then you get a glimpse of Arthur Bourchier and Allan Aynsworth both in pyjamas. Theatrical nightwear seems all the rage just now, but it was Hawtrey who first appeared in purple pyjamas, and before him Cyril Maude in pink. I am beginning to think men are much vainer than women, what do you say?

OUR "BISCUIT" PRIZES.

A SPLENDID EDUCATIONAL EXERCISE FOR CHILDREN.

We have decided to award a Prize of One Guinea for the cleverest explanation of ANY THREE *of the current week's "Biscuits"—that is to say, the smartest reason why the "Biscuits" were awarded. We shall also give a second prize of half-a-guinea and ten consolation prizes of 5s. each. Any child of a* JOHN BULL *reader—whether boy or girl, up to fourteen years of age—may enter. Answers must be short and to the point, and written clearly, and each set of three must be accompanied by the coupon which will be found printed below. Competitors may make as many attempts as they like, providing a coupon is attached to each set of answers. Each "Biscuit" is numbered, so that all competitors have to do is to number their replies to correspond with the "Biscuits" selected. The age of the competitor will be taken into consideration, so that every child has an equal opportunity of winning. Answers must be received, in envelopes marked in left-hand corner "Biscuit," not later than the first post on Thursday morning, and the result will be announced in our next issue.*

BISCUIT PRIZE COUPON.

Competitor's Name _____

Address _____

_____

Age _____

30-12-11.

The John Bull League.

BRANCH REPORTS.

LIVERPOOL.—This branch held its second annual social meeting on Monday, December 11th, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Mr. Jno. Jones presiding. The Local Secretary, G. S. Haines, outlined an active campaign, and dealt with the recent personal announcement of the President, to whom a vote of confidence was unanimously passed. A Social Committee was appointed for the ensuing year, and Mr. Jones was re-elected as Chairman. Mr. F. O. Rowlands was re-appointed Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, and Mr. G. S. Haines, Local Secretary. The meeting was followed by an enjoyable informal concert, at which the following artistes assisted:—Messrs. McCray, James Curlin, McKay, Lyle Leslie, F. O. Rowlands, T. Kavanagh, and Miss Isabel Gilbert, who also acted as accompanist.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—The members of this branch and their friends held a most successful gathering at the Stranton Hall on Wednesday evening, December 13th. The proceedings, which took the form of a whist drive and dance, were heartily enjoyed by everyone present. The prizes for the whist drive were presented by Miss Daisy Withy, and the Local Chairman, Councillor W. J. Hussey, gave a brief address on the aims and objects of the League. A fine rendering of the League song was given by Mr. W. Taylor.

LEICESTER.—The members of the local branch held their second annual social gathering on Thursday, December 14th, at Winn's Oriental Café. The proceedings, which were of an enjoyable character, attracted over 150 members and friends. A short whist drive was followed by supper, and concluded with a smoking concert. The Local Chairman, W. F. McAllister Howlings, delivered a short address, laying special stress upon the importance of educational work in the movement, and the need of business capacity in the Government departments, and drew attention to the evasive replies given in the House of Commons by Ministers to questions framed for the purpose of extracting some definite expression of opinion. Councillor F. C. Shardlow, who followed, referred to the work already accomplished by the branch. Mr. Cecil Dunford in sketches and caricatures, Madame Florence Goddard, Mr. Chas. Barratt, Mr. Arthur Harvey, Mr. Randolph Todd, and Mr. Walter Oldershaw in songs, the latter with harp accompaniment, delighted the large audience.

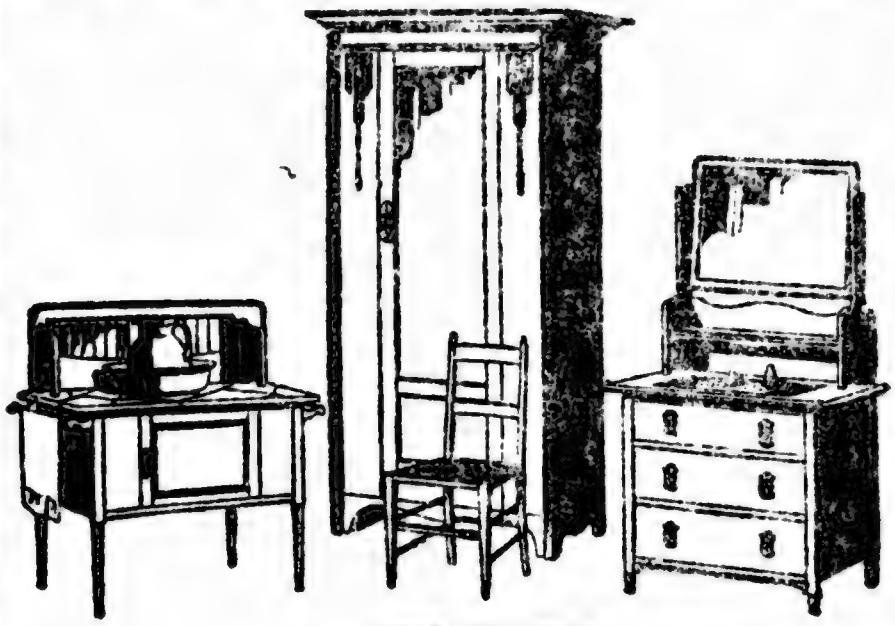
"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS FUND

OUR READERS' GENEROUS SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Owing to the holiday season this number has been sent to press earlier than is usual. It is, therefore, unfortunately impossible to give our readers any account of the distribution to the poor of the good things provided by their generosity. This we hope to publish in our next issue. Meantime, we have very much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the following further donations:—

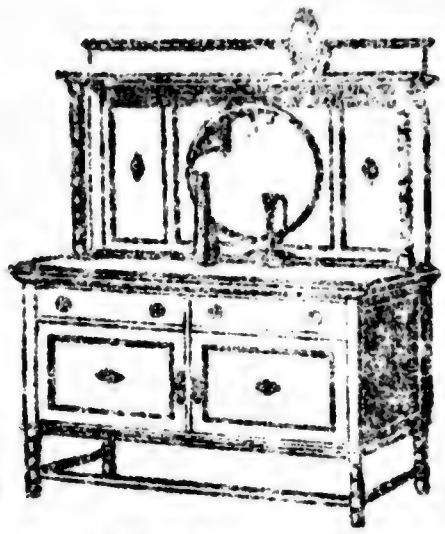
"Anjenbo," 2s.; E. T. W., 2s. and basket of clothing; E. S. R., 10s.; J. A. B., parcel of clothing; "Constant Reader," parcel; E. O., parcel; "Friend in Need," parcel; Mrs. McL., dolls, toys and sweets; "Little Laurie," parcel; L. Y., parcel; "Agnostic," 20s. and picture postcard album; R. B. E., 5s.; J. S. R., 1s.; H. E. A., 1.; B. J. C., 5s.; E. H. B., 5s.; "Doris and Rosey," 5s.; T. H. & W. H., 3s. 6d.; "Cheer," 2s.; J. & M. K., 2s. 6d.; L. W. A., 2s. 6d.; J. L. M., 20s.; Mr. C., 2s. 6d.; "Banker," 2s. 6d.; J. T., 1s.; E. J., 2s. 6d.; "Nancy," 5s. 6d.; "Swintonian," 2s. 6d.; W. H. T., 2s.; "Leaguer" (Swindon), 1s.; E. H. J., 1s.; A. L., 10s.; H. and T., 2s. 6d.; Robt. T., 1s.; "Thankful," 2s.; "Edith," 1s.; "Anonymous," 1s.; J. C., box of toys; J. R., 2s. 6d.; H. and M. T., 1s.; H. R., 2s. 6d.; "Gateman," 2s. 6d.; A. F. M., 2s. 6d.; W. R., 1s.; F. R., 1s.; P. R., 1s.; J. R., 1s.; G. R., 1s.; H. R., 1s.; "Gilmour," 2s.; C. C. S., 2s. 6d.; S. H., 2s.; H. T. and E. B., cloth, etc.; "Warwick," 2s.; A. C. H., 20s. and parcel of clothing; A. L., 2s.; "Salford Guildite," 2s. 6d.; F., 2s.; W. H., 4s.; B. H., 5s.; B. B., 10s. and parcel of clothing; "Bobbie," 10s.; R. C., 5s.; "Forest Town," 1s.; W. C. A., 7s. 6d.; G. C., 1s.; W. H. H., 1s.; F. H., 10s. 6d.; "St. Nicholas," 5s.; F. S., 20s.; "Irish Rifles," 1s.; A. F. and Friends, 8s.; "Ponica," 1s. 6d.; "Anon," 6d.; T. C. A., 2s. 6d.; J. F. I. (Eastbourne), £5; "Helping Hand," 2s. 6d.; per M. C., 7s. 6d.; "Leo," 5s.; S. G., 1s.; "Punter," 2s. 6d.; G. H. N., 5s.; R. S. C., 5s.; "Bull Pup," 2s.; "Bigchump," 5s.; R. W. R., 5s.; F. G. B., 2s.; "Goodwick," 1s.; H. and R. C., 1s. 6d.; R. L., 10s. 6d.; T. and W., 4s.; "Tom," 5s.; "Roman Catholic," 1s.; M. M. R., 10s. 6d.; "Mac," 6d.; "A Neighbour," 20s.; F. M. W., 2s. 6d.; "Typist," 5s.; A. R. W., 10s. 6d.; "Butterick Sympathisers," 5s.; W. H. H. (Kentish Town), 2s. 6d.; J. L., 2s.; A. B. (Westcliff-on-Sea), 8s.; M. T., 5s.; H. W. R., 1s. 6d.; "Sunday School Teacher," 2s.; "Working Man," 1s.; H. E. & M. W., 5s.; W. A. G., 3s.; "Anonymous" (Ticehurst), 3s.; H. E. H., 1s.; J. P. (Bristol), 2s. 6d.; A. R., 1s.; L. M., 7s.; R. J. L., 5s.

In addition, several parcels have been received from anonymous donors, whilst those addressed to *Mrs. Bull* are duly acknowledged in that publication.



THE "ALWYN."

Prettily designed Bedroom Suite, constructed from well-seasoned oak and excellently finished **£7 17 6**



THE "KINGSWAY."

Artistic design Sideboard which is constructed of sound dry well-figured oak. This is finished a rich antique colour **£9 9 0**

OUR PRICES TALK

No other argument is needed

Any article we sell may be had on our Gradual Payment System.

OUR GENERAL TERMS ARE:

Worth £	Per Month £ s. d.	Worth £	Per Month £ s. d.
10	6 0	200	4 10 0
20	11 0	500	11 5 0
50	1 8 0	1,000	22 10 0
100	2 5 0	2,000	45 0 0

Or by other proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED. NO INTEREST OR EXTRA CHARGES WHATSOEVER.

If you live in the Country we will pay your fare to Town on all orders of £30 and upwards.

Country orders packed free and carriage paid.

We shall be pleased to forward, post free, our illustrated catalogue which contains over 400 pages

MIDLAND

FURNISHING · CO · LTD

15 TO 23 · SOUTHAMPTON · ROW · HOLBORN · LONDON · W.C.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*When writing us, whether forwarding cuttings from newspapers, "as received" or cut out, a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?*

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *lately, and consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information," extra" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTES *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. *ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL* UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

THE EDITOR returns thanks to all those many kind readers who have sent him Christmas greetings.

"INO" (Hornsey).—Of course, although the actual number of copies we print does not yet quite reach the million, our readers probably number at least double the figure. If you were a shareholder, you would have less cause that the other matter was dealt with at the Inn.

H. T. N. (Harrow) asks why "God Save the King" is not played at the close of the performance at Drury Lane, where there is a Royal box. The answer is that it is never played at any theatre for loyalty unless it is a "command" performance. Such exalted personages insist that ordinary visits to the theatre shall be treated as incognito.

F. G. (Manor Park).—"The estimated income of the United Kingdom in the year 1908-9 was £1,909,935,926. We cannot say how much of this went into the pockets of the working classes unless you can tell us who constitute the working classes.

A. P. (Pimlico).—A shopkeeper is not legally bound to supply a customer with goods if he does not wish to. For our part, we have never yet come across one who did not.

H. C. (Barnsbury) tells us he bought some "respirators" to cure catarrh. They got fixed in his nasal passage, and he had to go to a hospital to have them extracted. We imagine he has been blowing his nose in more ways than one, ever since.

L. P. G. F. (Stockwell Road) draws the curtain to expose the sweating that goes on in the Curtain Road upholstery trade. Those who practise it must be blind to the signs of the times.

G. B. G. (Shipley) sends us the advertisement of a young man who desires a bed-sitting room, "with Baptist or Christian people." Let us hope this is a distinction without a difference.

Miss D. L. (Covent Garden).—We do not care to recommend money lenders.

"NEVER AGAIN" (Lee, S.E.) states that the Lewisham Bijoux Cinema has no licence, no bar, and does not issue "pass out" checks for thirsty patrons. Now we know where to pass a happy evening.

W. G. H. (Islington).—If you are 22 and possessed of a little pluck, you ought not to want much telling how to get away to sea.

T. W. C. (Gloucester) posted a copy of JOHN BULL, but only the empty wrapper arrived at its destination. Not lost, but gone before, so to speak.

A. H. T. (Leicester).—The Jarnishers, Co. have no right to attempt to force you to purchase goods you do not want, and they should return the money you tell us you have already sent.

"LEADENHALL" asks us whether we can give him any information about J. Muller and Co., Hauptkollektur der Kon. Ung. Klaisen lotterie. We are pleased to say that we cannot.

MR. B. (Boro', S.E.) informs us he has "found out a sure and harmless cure for sore eyes." So it has come at last. Now all that remains is to discover a cure for cancer.

E. P. (Peckham).—We are sorry to say we cannot prevent the firm you mention encouraging its employees to draw "subs" on account of their wages. But it seems a very dirty business for a firm to charge interest on such "subs" at the rate of 1d. in the shilling.

R. D. (Dublin), an ex-soldier, answered an advertisement for "a young man, to make himself generally useful," but the advertiser replied that "he would not employ a soldier as there were four maid servants in the house." We have heard that they are devils in the Forty-Fourth, but is this gratuitous insult to the British Army warranted?

J. H. K. (Stepney), who says he is 36, tells us that the Great Eastern Railway refused to give him a porter's job because he was too old. Perhaps he looks older than he is.

"'NUFF SAID" (Calthorpe Street).—You should know that frontages cover a multitude of shins.

S. C. (Hessle).—You want to know "why people should make such a fuss about the State when the State cares nothing about nobody, alive or dead." That is where you make a mistake, good man. The State has need of you, so that it can tax you all the time you are alive and tax your executors when you are dead.

W. J. E. (Exeter).—It may seem hard that the G.W.R. should visit the diseases of the fathers upon the children.

"WESTERLIA".—What chances of success has a young poultry farmer, with a good-looking wife and two children, age 11, with £250 capital, in Western Australia? The idea is to combine fruit growing with poultry farming. But why not over here?

"A BESPECTABLE COMIC MAN."—Anonymous communications are not noticed.

C. H. (Berkley).—Samuel George & Co., 155, North Street, Leeds, Yorks, are evidently carrying on a trade somewhat similar to the one you describe. The amount of money is likely to reach their pockets, mark, you must be a fool.

"SASS SAUCE".—We repeat that many foreigners have a quaint way of being rogues, but we cannot undertake a complete survey of property and persons in this case. You may say your money and take your chance.

"SWAY WED" (Birmingham).—*Mrs. Bell* is the paper for wives and daughters; also for other people's wives and daughters.

MRS. W. (Sutherland) says her husband answered the advertisement of a man who offered through the *Daily Chronicle* a remunerative post as clerk on deposit of £50. He paid the money, but after having waited a few weeks without salary, the place in Glasshouse Street, Piccadilly) was found to be closed and not having been paid. What a gullible husband!

T. B. (Hind Head) sent 9s. for some jewellery to Norman & Co., Birmingham, on June 10th last, and in spite of repeated applications has not received the goods. T. B. must be a patient man—subject to stronger measures should be dealt with such old offenders.

W. H. F. (Ivinghoe).—You would like to inquire how many Cabinet Ministers are really actuated by a desire materially to benefit the country. You may inquire accordingly.

F. T. D. W. (Huddersfield).—When a teacher becomes a certificated master or mistress, he or she has to go to the expense of purchasing a parchment of that certificate, the cost being 3s. 7d. If the country were run on business lines one department would refer to another.

G. R. L. (Charing Town).—From what we know, we should be surprised to hear that the Chinese pig imported into this country had been fed on the diet you describe. Nauseating to think of it.

J. W. (Uckfield).—See *Mrs. Bull's* Letter Bag.

"MODEL CLASS" (London, W.).—You are difficult for a busy man to read, and only half your letter has reached us; even this is illegible in parts, or lost names.

"HORSES'S CHOICE" (Kennington), answering H. S. W., says workers are not paid 2½d. for making Territorial trousers. That sum is paid by firms for finishing a pair, but it is the very lowest. "As such work is paid for, it is not half as bad as police, railway, and other uniforms.

G. W. (Plymouth).—If a man obtains a public appointment under the specific condition that he is a certain age, and on obtaining it proves by a birth certificate or substitutes another, he cannot complain if the appointment is rescinded.

J. H. T. (Pailsworth).—The fine of 5s. and costs imposed by the Stroud magistrate on a woman for a first offence of stealing two cabbages from an allotment garden is severe, but if they had given her two months' hard what would you have said?

D. G. (Eastwick).—Supposing you were asked to prove your statements in a Law Court, could you?

"ENGLISHMAN" (Shanghai, China).—We will keep an eye on the cases dispensed in Shanghai, if you are right in your statement that sentences of four and six months' for cruel, premeditated murder are common.

B. M. (High Holborn) says that a dilapidated woman who once got a shilling out of him still calls for subscriptions on behalf of the Londesborough Suburban Philanthropical Association. Peradventure readers can tell us whether or not the train are one?

S. R. S. (Reading) calls our attention to the fact that only 242 M.P.s voted on the Insurance Bill third reading amendment, and only 200 on the Naval Prize Bill, and asks what would be the consequences to any paid servant who neglected his duty. But under the Party system a vote is practically useless.

W. H. C. (Stepney).—We are afraid it will be very difficult to carry out the Rev. F. C. Carter's idea of prohibiting children from going within 100 yards of a public-house. What a lot of barriers we should have to erect!

"NEMO." (Portarlington) is a solicitor, and thinks the *Log Lecture* will do the legal profession an infinite amount of good. We hope, therefore, every solicitor and barrister will take it.

C. B. (Hanley).—If we were to start reading "between the lines" of documents, as you suggest, we should never be out of trouble. Reading between the lines is often to read what isn't there.

F. W. A. (Handsworth) complains of the treatment of the employés at a local music-hall. He says he works 72 hours a week for 19s. We must have another Royal Commission.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

"BRAININE."

Special Offer to JOHN BULL Readers.

COUPON.

Please send me a box of "Brainine" as advertised in JOHN BULL. I enclose P.O. for 1/1½.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

THE BRAININE CO., 23-28, Fleet St., E.C.

Start the New Year Right

Good beginnings make good endings. If you want 1912 to be a Prosperous Year, see that your office is equipped with Roneo Aids to Business Success. The necessary outlay will be the best investment you have ever made, resulting, as it must do, in better office work, in less time, at less cost.

RONEO

FILING SYSTEMS
and labour & money saving
OFFICE APPLIANCES

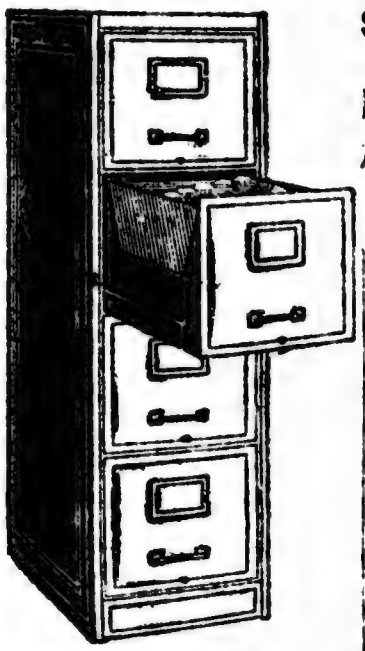
We can give you a Filing System—the Numeralpha—enabling that section of your office work to be done more efficiently and in a quarter the time hitherto taken.

We supply a Copier which takes perfect copies of letters—typewritten or hand-written—in a tenth of the time required by the old process. No water used, consequently no blurred originals.

The Roneo Duplicator is another machine which is indispensable in any progressive office. It reproduces any number of duplicates up to 5,000 from one copy, each having exact appearance of an original.

The Roneo-type is a combination of Printing Machine and Duplicator. It will print your own stationery, letter-heads, statements, &c., equal to Printers' work, and produce circulars indistinguishable from actual letters.

Remember, everything you can possibly require in office equipment is supplied in its best form by Roneo Ltd.



Roneo Sectional Filing Cabinet.

SEND THIS COUPON
(or Postcard will do)
FOR FREE BOOKLETS.

Address—RONEO, Ltd.,
26, Holborn Viaduct London.
Branches Everywhere.

John Bull, Dec. 30.
To RONEO, Ltd., 26, Holborn Viaduct, London.
Please send me Booklets No. *
NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....

(1) Roneo Filing Cabinets and Systems.
(2) Roneo Copier.
(3) Roneo Duplicator.
(4) Roneotype.
(5) All Roneo Office Appliances.
* Quote Numbers as here given.

NERVES.

"Does the discovery of BRAININE really mark a new epoch in the treatment of nervous disease?" Such was the question propounded by our Special Commissioner to an eminent nerve specialist, when after long waiting, he was at last ushered into the sanctum sanctorum of the famous practitioner. The reply was characteristically guarded: "I saw it in JOHN BULL, so it must be so!"

"But," persisted our Commissioner, "will you not give JOHN BULL readers the benefit of your opinion?"

"Undoubtedly," said the doctor, after a pause. "A great many of my *confrères* make a great mistake in the treatment of nervous complaints by confining their care too closely to the nerves themselves, and not paying sufficient attention to the brain.

"The brain being, so to speak, the storage battery whence the nerves derive their vigour, must be considered in the treatment of nervous disease. Indeed, more often than not the real fault lies in the fact that the brain, becoming impoverished, fails to respond to the calls made upon it by the nervous system. In such a case you cure the disease, when, and only when, you restore the brain to health and vigour."

The doctor instanced the fact that many illnesses yield to treatment by mental suggestion. "This," said he, "is the fundamental truth, out of which the great fallacy of Christian Science has grown. Undoubtedly, many diseases, being nervous complaints more or less, do actually yield, when the brain is soothed by superior mental influence."

"So Christian Science is just soothing the nerves, just as a pipe soothes one when one is worried?" said our Commissioner.

"Exactly" said the doctor, "or as music influences some minds, lifting them out of themselves, as the saying is. But if music, by simply soothing the brain, will steady the nerves and induce mental ease, how much more so must it be when the brain is actually nourished, reinvigorated and purged as it is by BRAININE?

"Do I then understand that BRAININE actually nourishes the brain, as the rest of the body is nourished by the food we eat."

"Just so. BRAININE is a brain food. It purges the brain and renews the wasted tissue, thus actually feeding the brain, making it strong and actually preventing worry.

"Worry is mental tiredness. Worry is caused when the brain uses up its force more quickly than it is renewed. The waste used up matter is not carried away as it should be. Instead, it remains and clogs the brain, retarding its healthy activity. This is what causes the state of mind which we call worry. BRAININE, by purging away the wasted matter and replacing it by sound, healthy tissue, does actually prevent worry.

"What then is BRAININE?" was our representative's next query.

"Ah! that I cannot say. The proprietors keep their secret too well. I can only say that after taking it myself, and observing its effect on some of my patients, I am certain that it does for me and for them just what the proprietors say that it will do for all. I first tried it before it was widely advertised. I knew that your editor, Mr. Bottomley, took it, and I thought I could not err in giving a trial to the brain food which has sustained his nerves throughout his abnormally active life, making him the man of iron he undoubtedly is.

"To the man who has constantly to deal with figures, or with logic, and argument, BRAININE is invaluable. A dose in the morning invigorates the brain, making one's work a pleasure. Let me remind you that the eminent physician, Dr. Robert Bristowe, states that a careful consideration of the phenomena of death shows even that dread event can happen only from one of the four following causes:—

FOUR CAUSES OF DEATH.

1. Failure of Nutrition.
2. Failure of Elimination of effete and poisonous matters.
3. Failure of Circulation.
4. Failure of the Nervous System to perform its proper functions."

Among the constituents of BRAININE are four ingredients which respectively counteract the causes of the above "Failures."

OUR £1,000 Prize—Football Competition.

Simplicity its Charm. No Entrance Fee Whatever. £50 at least must be won each week.

We have for some time past been pressed by our sporting readers to establish a Football Skill Competition. The difficulty, however, has been to devise something different from the competitions of our contemporaries. Imitation is a form of flattery in which we do not often indulge. We have now, however, devised something unique, combining the element of simplicity with that of skill, and which, on account of these two merits, will we feel sure, appeal not only to the followers of our great winter game, but also to those who desire a pleasurable and profitable pastime for the long winter evenings.

Having decided to inaugurate a Football Skill Competition our first aim was to make it such that it would be "streets ahead" of similar propositions.

That is why we make the prize double the size of anything offered by other periodicals. That is why we make the prize one of £1,000.

Moreover, £50 must be won *every week* by some competitor or other. Do not run away with the idea that because *the Prize is twice as large as any other*, we are making it more difficult to win. As a matter of fact it is easier than any other hitherto offered. Let us add this one remark:

The sooner this £1,000 is won the better pleased we shall be.

Make no mistake about that. We are not so dense as not to recognise the advertising importance of being able to announce that £1,000 was first won by a JOHN BULL reader. If it is won in the very first week we shall be resplendent with joy.

A knowledge of football form is, of course, a very fine thing, and accordingly we refer you to the "Football Tactics" or tips given each Wednesday in "Lotinga's Weekly." These selections will serve as a guide to you. All this means the exercise of common sense, a little brain work, and the two qualities will be of more importance than mere football knowledge.

Having explained the game and let us come to the details of the competition. If you consult your Saturday night or Sunday's paper or your Monday morning's results of football matches played the previous Saturday, you will observe that there are three distinct leading Football Leagues in England. We embrace the three in this competition, so that equal chances of winning the £1,000 prize may be afforded to all readers. The three Leagues are: English League (Division I.), English League (Division II.), and Southern League (Division I.).

What you have to do is to select from each match in each of these Leagues the one in each week, the greatest number of goals will be scored, giving the names of the clubs playing, Clubs, and the actual scores.

Bear in mind that you must give the greatest number of goals scored by each of the clubs you select, and not by one team only.

For instance the greatest number of goals scored on Saturday, December 16th, in any single game of the three chief Leagues was as follows:—

English League (Div. I.).
Goals.
Newcastle United 6 v. Aston Villa 2
English League (Div. II.).
Wolverhampton W. 5 v. Leeds City 0
Southern League (Div. I.).
Stoke 4 v. West Ham 0

Of course you must select clubs that are competing against each other on Saturday.

No Entrance Fee.

No. 1. COUPON for Matches to be Played SATURDAY, JANUARY 6th.

The two opposing clubs in Divisions I. and II. of the English League, and Division I. of the Southern League, which will total the largest number of goals between them, and the goals which each will score, will be as follows:—

	Name of Club.	Goals scored.		Name of Club.	Goals scored.
English League (Div. I.)	.....		v.	.....	
" " (Div. II.)	.....		v.	.....	
Southern League (Div. I.)	.....		v.	.....	

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Should no one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, the £50 will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £50 will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and LOTINGA'S WEEKLY must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you may enter only on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon, or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly."
3. £1,000 will be awarded to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £50 will be given to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £50 will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence, whether personal or by letter, in the matter of the conduct of this competition will be ignored.
6. All readers residing in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competition.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims within a week of the result.
8. All competitors must put the name and number of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names and addresses must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.

Mark your envelopes "Football" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than midday on Thursday, January 4th, next.

THE GREAT £2,000 "FOOTBALL FINAL" COMPETITION £2,000

On January 15th next sixty-four clubs engage in the competition proper for the Football Cup.

Of all these sixty-four only four can appear in the Semi-Finals, and only two in the Final Tie at the Crystal Palace. Only one can win the Cup.

Students of football form are asked to test their skill by filling in the particulars given on our "Skill" Coupon.

£2,000 will be given to the competitor (or competitors) whose coupon is correct in every particular.

The conditions governing our other Football Competition hold good in this case.

Mark your envelopes "Final," and send them so that they will be received at JOHN BULL Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than midday, Friday, January 26th next.

It is only by knowledge of football form that you can succeed in giving all the particulars required. Therefore we advise you to give your attention to "Football Tactics" which appear each week in "Lotinga's Weekly." Your coupon MUST be taken from either JOHN BULL or "Lotinga's Weekly."

Further offers of large Money Prizes will be made after the decision of the First Round.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

COUPON.
THE FOOTBALL CUP COMPETITION.

The following four Clubs in my judgment will contest the Semi-Finals. The number of goals each will score in the actual deciding games are as given below:

Clubs	Goals	Clubs	Goals
.....		v.	
.....		v.	

The following two Clubs will contest the Final Tie this season and I judge the number of goals each will score in the actual deciding game to be

Club	Goals	Club	Goals
.....		v.	

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Isn't India's new "capital" producing a lot of "interest"?
Is it true that Calcutta is Delhi-ted?
Isn't the Tripoli-Egypt situation a Solium 'un?
Will the Gaekwar of Baroda receive a "salute-ary lesson"?
Isn't the Persian Cat "up a tree"?
Will China be made to mind her "peace and queues"?
Isn't Lloyd George used to having things "thrown in his face"?
Was the *Olympic's* navigation really "Hawke-ward"?
Aren't the M.C.C. team finding that a "Test" is a "trial"?
Isn't the Hampstead "light" bill rather too "heavy"?
Is it "spy" or "spite" in Germany just now?
Isn't the Rev. Silvester Horne rather "sorry he spoke"?
Wouldn't "Baby Gold-mine" be a better name for the farce at the Vaudeville?

The New York highwayman who has been sentenced to 20 years' for stealing sixpence undoubtedly got a lot for the money.

"Examinations may be brutal, but they are bracing," says Mr. G. S. Albright. No wonder students get "pulled up" by them.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS:—
The Premier—To keep his promises—to himself.
Winston Churchill—To be on the "look-out."
Lord Haldane—To mind his "Bobs."
Lloyd George—To make the country a "paying" one.
The House of Lords—To become a passive resister.
The Unionist Party—To be one.
King Alfonso—To enlarge the nursery.
The Suffragettes—To deal another "smashing" blow.
Politicians—To give up "playing the Game."
Keir Hardie—To always "bite" a sovereign.
Harry Lauder—To "keep himself to himself."
The Rev. F. B. Meyer—To remember that cleanliness is not *always* allied to godliness.
The Censors—To make "Cut, and come again," their motto.
The taxi-driver—To stop "running people down."
Miss Maud Allan—To "bear herself bravely."
Our playwrights—To substitute "adept" for "adapt" in their work.
The House of Commons—To observe "Business first, (Party Whips') pleasure afterwards."
The Kaiser—To keep an "I" on his family.

A Chicago woman sued a creditor for confiscating her wooden leg. Did her counsel make a "stump" speech?

It is stated that chestnut vendors make 15s. a day. The cheap comic papers do better than this.

Gorgias won a race at Lingfield Park recently, but that wasn't how the backers spelt it.

The thief who pleaded that he was suffering from starvation was only "taking something for it."

"Play is the result of having too much energy," says Dr. W. E. Hoyle. Or not enough—to work.

New-laid eggs are so scarce that it is no longer possible for the English housewife to scorn the foreign yolk.

It is stated that widows make the best telephone operators. Yes, they know how to "talk back."

Mr. A. G. Vanderbilt has wedded a Mrs. McKim. We trust that she will McKim happy.

"Should Servants have Titles?" asks a morning paper. Why not? *All* the eligible peers have not married chorus-girls.

Camel flesh has been sold for food in Paris for the first time. Hump steak.

"Musicians, like poets, are born," says Sir Marchant Williams. And every baby thinks it is one.

It was an envious male who referred to the meeting-place of a miniature rifle club for women as the "kitchen-range."

A Pittsburg banker has been fined £100 for sending kisses on a post-card to a lady he did not know. He now calls her his "dear" girl.

"When an Englishman is happy he sings," says a contemporary. Yes, the selfish brute.

"Floor Games" is the title of a new book. Football, we take it, is principally dealt with.

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF QUALITY.

Buchanan's "Black & White" BRAND.

A COMPARISON
— THAT IS —
NOT ODIOUS.

On the left of this announcement is a silhouette of the figure of the greatest teacher of Physical Culture the world has ever known. Compare it with the figure of an ancient Greek athlete on the right, and you will see at a glance that it not only compares favourably, but in some details surpasses the ancient ideal. Now read, mark and learn. Mr. Aston built his own figure to this state of perfection by the performance of a few simple exercises, and he is ready to supply readers of JOHN BULL with these same exercises for an outlay of just a few shillings. For particulars send 2½d. in stamps to

EDWARD ASTON
(Britain's Strongest Man)
(J.B. 2),
ASTON HOUSE, CAMBERWELL GREEN, LONDON, S.E.

when you will receive in return beautiful autographed photo and tape measure, &c.

A sample chart of exercises will be sent on receipt of 6d. extra. These are beautifully reproduced from photos of Mr. Aston especially posed for the purpose.

FARROW'S BANK, Limited.

STOCKS AND SHARES DEPARTMENT.

READERS of "John Bull" who deal in Stocks and Shares, quoted or unquoted, should transact their business through Farrow's Bank well-known and popular Stocks and Shares Department. The Bank deals only with the leading Members of the Stock Exchange.

Full particulars and Prospectus post free on application to the MANAGER, Stocks and Shares Department

FARROW'S BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE:
1, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

100 Shines for 4½d

"NUGGET"

BOOT POLISHES

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

["*Larry Lynx*" of THE PEOPLE, "*Pendle H. F.*" of LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, and "*Magpie*" of THE GLOBE.]

£3,000 for nothing.

It is quite a new departure for this paper to enter into the football arena, but its companionship with such a very sporting and enormously successful pictorial as LOTINGA'S WEEKLY has had its natural and contagious effects. JOHN BULL henceforward is offering *each week* **£1,000** in prizes, to enable its readers and all their friends to put to very ordinary test their skill and knowledge of the game. The competition concerns only the three chief Leagues, the teams in which, and their form, are literally known by heart by every football enthusiast. It is, therefore, well worth the attempt to win £1,000 for nothing by merely naming which, in the readers' opinion and judgment, are the most likely to put up the biggest score among the clubs in that League in the games on a particular Saturday. This is not alone an entirely new competition, but an easy one to solve, and very simple in all its particulars. In the event even of failure to select the successful clubs, the £250 consolation prize *must* be won with every issue. The fullest details, for those interested, are given on the competition page, not alone of this contest, but of the even bigger and equally novel one regarding the Cup Final played at the Crystal Palace in April. Competitors are asked to anticipate, according to their judgment, which of the clubs will figure in the semi-final and the final. There are many clubs entered, but few survive, and, as the records show, it is just the same few teams, season after season, which do reach the concluding stages. This again, is, therefore, not a difficult task, but it can be a *very remunerative* one. I have for some years now had so many requests from readers to yield to the popular craze for the sporting, interesting and successful competitions, that I welcome the decision now announced. Naturally, anything that JOHN BULL does must be done well—and better than others. Therefore these huge sums, as prizes, have been put up in the hope that readers will frequently win them, which is, of course, the best possible, and cheapest, advertisement that a newspaper could obtain. JOHN BULL and its companion issues *guarantee payment* of the prizes.

Prophetic.

The holidays much interfere with the actual racing, many owners and trainers purposely taking a rest. At Hurst, on Friday, THE GUN, if started, will gain the Palace Selling Handicap, whilst I like nothing better than KNIGHT OF AVON in the Wolsey Selling Handicap. On the second day PLEASURE GARDEN may win at last in the Old Year Handicap, while in the Molesey Handicap CANNOCK LAD must again be thereabouts, and won't always be second. The danger is OKORO, to be substituted if the other absents. If THE GUN is saved for this day, he should win.

At Manchester, where the acceptances are so poor, I consider MASTER TREDENNIS, especially if the ground be very heavy, the pick of the New Year Handicap, and FLAXEN the best of those left in the steeplechase.

GOOD POSITIONS

can always be found for men with Special Ability. There are hundreds of men with special Aptitude for a certain class of work who are in positions where that Aptitude has no scope, and is accordingly not appreciated or properly paid for. We want such men. If you are one of them and can prove that you are capable of filling a Responsible Position, write us to-day—or call.

HAPGOODS Ltd., 167-8 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

WILLIAM BARNES, FOOTBALL TOTALISATOR,
LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

Some Tote-Odds paid Saturday, Dec. 16th.

12/1 against 6 Home Teams; 20/1 7 H. T.; 37/1 6 H. T.; 46/1 9 H. T.; 3/1 1 Dr; 15/1 2 Dr.; 68 1 3 Dr.; 180 1 4 Dr.; 16/1 2 H. and 2 A.; 26/1 3 H. and 2 A.; 108 1 6 H. and 2 A.; 11 1 1 H. and 1 Dr.; 24/1 2 H. and 2 Dr.; 98/1 3 H. and 3 Dr.; 23 1 4 H. and 1 Dr.; 31/1 5 H. and 1 Dr.; 59/1 6 H. and 1 Dr.

Tote-book and forms sent free on application.

'FOOTBALL.'

Do your Business with

W. & A. FOX,

Football Accountants,
BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

FREE! FREE!

Silver-Plated Cigarette Lighters

GIVEN AWAY EVERY WEEK

Absolutely Free.

1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

FOOTBALL!

WHITE, FISHER & CO., THE WORLD'S PREMIER Football Accountants,
BASLE, SWITZERLAND,
beg to announce that the

ENORMOUS ODDS OF 2,000 to 1

HAVE BEEN LAID AND PAID ON OCTOBER 7th, £100 TO ONE SHILLING.

This fortunate Client, Mr. Albert Hobden, 8, Guildford Street, Brighton, having predicted 4 scores successfully.

£1,000 will be paid to any charity if not genuine.

FULL PARTICULARS will be sent upon RECEIPT of a POSTCARD. If you mention this paper, we will also send you a sample packet, FREE OF COST, of our famous FOOTBALL WHIFF CIGARETTES.

Letters must bear not later than 2 p.m. postmark on Saturday.

FOOTBALL CHAT, Nov. 22, 1911, Says. "Established firms of repute such as Messrs. White, Fisher & Co. conduct their business with a scrupulous fairness and impartiality that could well provide an object lesson to many commercial houses."

Free Postage. Free Postage.

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

Basle, Switzerland.

The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.

FOOTBALL!

Send a 1d. postcard for the most liberal price list issued. Every Match in the English, Southern, and Scotch Leagues to pick from.

£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*

The "Mirror of Life" for Oct. 22nd says:—

"Messrs. H. Hamilton & Co. have won for themselves an exceptional reputation for prompt payments, and we have no hesitation in recommending the Firm as a thoroughly reliable one."

Our Football Annual sent free on mentioning this paper.

H. HAMILTON & Co., Basle, Switzerland.

FOOTBALL

BERT FRY, BALE 2, SWITZERLAND

JOHN BULL says:—Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers they could entrust their business to a reliable firm like that of BERT FRY: and be sure of receiving their winnings.

Special Half Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.
Free Postage.

HARRY APPLETON the man who always pays.

"NO LIMIT" THROUGHOUT JUMPING SEASON. **BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.**

£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.

Send for my **FOOTBALL** terms. Odds greatly extended.

Postcards 1d. Kindly mention this paper. Letters 2½d.

FOOTBALL.

SEND FOR COUPONS.

J. McLAUCHLAN,

Turf and Football Accountant.

Lucerne, Switzerland. Established 10 years.

Full Market Prices. CREDIT ACCOUNTS

Business all the year round.

Write 16, PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH.

FOOTBALL.

Send for Coupons. Every match in the 1st Scottish, 1st and 2nd English and Southern Leagues to choose from.

PATRICK FARLEY,

Turf and Football Accountant.

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND; and 19, HOWARD ST., GLASGOW.

NO LIMIT TO DOUBLES OR TREBLES. LETTERS COMMISSIONS. Pay at Night. Write for Terms.

Plenty of Money to be Made during the

JUMPING SEASON

If you do your business with

DOUGLAS STUART

Whose world famous Term

NO LIMIT COMBINED WITH PLACE BETTING

When the favourite starts "ODDS ON" are continued on every race under National Hunt Rules, without exception.

Open a

CREDIT ACCOUNT

102-104, NEW OXFORD STREET, LONDON.

Or Send Deposit for any amount to Basle

and do your REGULAR DAILY BUSINESS with "The Firm needed on the Continent."

SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR WRITING - - OR WIRING - - - } FOR DAILY **S.P.**

FULL MARKET PRICES GUARANTEED.

Note.—ALL Letters respecting Deposit Business MUST be sent to BASLE, SWITZERLAND, or will be ignored.

The Clemak Safety Razor—at 5s.—is Made as Well and Shaves as Well as any Guinea Safety Razor.

The CLEMAK is the ONLY *Indelible* Safety Razor on the Market sold at a FAIR Price.

You are using one of the old fashioned open Blade Razors at the present moment. Get a Clemak *at once*. It cannot "pull" the beard—gives a smooth, comfortable shave every time. Gives a clean cool, comfortable shave every time. Impossible to cut yourself—you must shave at the correct angle.

The Clemak Safety Razor is BRITISH MADE. Simple—strong—the only perfect Safety Razor. The Clemak complete 5s. Outfit consists of Triple Silver-Plated Frame (beautifully finished); Self-contained Stropping Handle; and Seven Perfect Blades. These Blades are made of the Finest Grade Sheffield Steel, ground and tempered by a Special Electric Process, and are packed in a Case, size 2 ins. by 2½ ins.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

DO DON'T THROW AWAY THE BLADES OF A CLEMAK SAFETY RAZOR—YOU STROP THEM.

You can strop Clemak Blades by a few Strokes on the Strop that is sold with every Clemak, and everyone to Buy a Clemak Stropper. Price 2s. 6d. Obtainable from your Dealer or Stores. Ensures a keen Blade for every Shave. It saves its cost many times over. It saves the expense of new blades which you can have with the Safety Razor. The Clemak Safety Razor and the Clemak Stropper is a perfect Safety Combination. They cost altogether 7s. 6d., and last a lifetime. Why pay more?

Obtainable from Cutlers, Ironmongers, Stores, etc., or Post Free direct from Clemak Razor Co., Room 4, 17, Billiter Street, London, E.C.

"His First Shave." 2nd Edition. A story for shavers young and old, humorously illustrated by Arthur Mansbridge, post free on application.

A.B.C. GUIDE TO STOCK EXCHANGE

(2nd Edition)

Shows Exclusive Connections of over 1,000 Members, Clerks, Offices, Hours to see them, Account with how to open, How to read a Balance Sheet, Questions to ask, Questions not to ask, Guide Post to Success. Cloth Boards, 1/- net.

FORDON, GRAHAM & CO.,

7, Bank Street, Royal Exchange, Manchester.

GRESHAM LIFE OFFICE.

Founded 1848. Assets £10,300,000.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE POLICIES WITH

CESSATION OF PREMIUMS DURING INCAPACITY

FROM ONE TO TEN YEARS.

VERY MODERATE PREMIUMS

Head Office

ST. MICHAEL'S ALLEY, CORNHILL, E.C.

JAMES H. SCOTT, General Manager.

The Gresham Life Assurance Society Limited.

What is Your Number?

Our Weekly Ballot for 50 Helpers of Two Guineas Apiece.

of sacrifice only.

The Sunday Chronicle ... Newspaper (Owned ...

GREAT PRIZE-PICTURE COMPETITION ...

Week ending ... PLAN ... Prize ...

Week No. 1,634. ... Number Here.

HOW TO SUCCEED. ...

Your Number this Week.

1693	195903	259993	509621	715863
15131	19 179	365690	555683	7[illegible]1
38599	201639	574068	586001	[illegible]11
47551	21[illegible]51	587[illegible]	5[illegible]5[illegible]	[illegible]2[illegible]9
54773	226318	463900	590276	808957
72048	237426	134949	591[illegible]64	818[illegible]93
80430	270[illegible]3	446929	638901	827672
115361	30[illegible]80	462572	6477[illegible]1	850703
139544	318429	471007	684219	876625
169359	345999	478571	702970	888216

Results Next Week. Rules ...

The John Bull League.

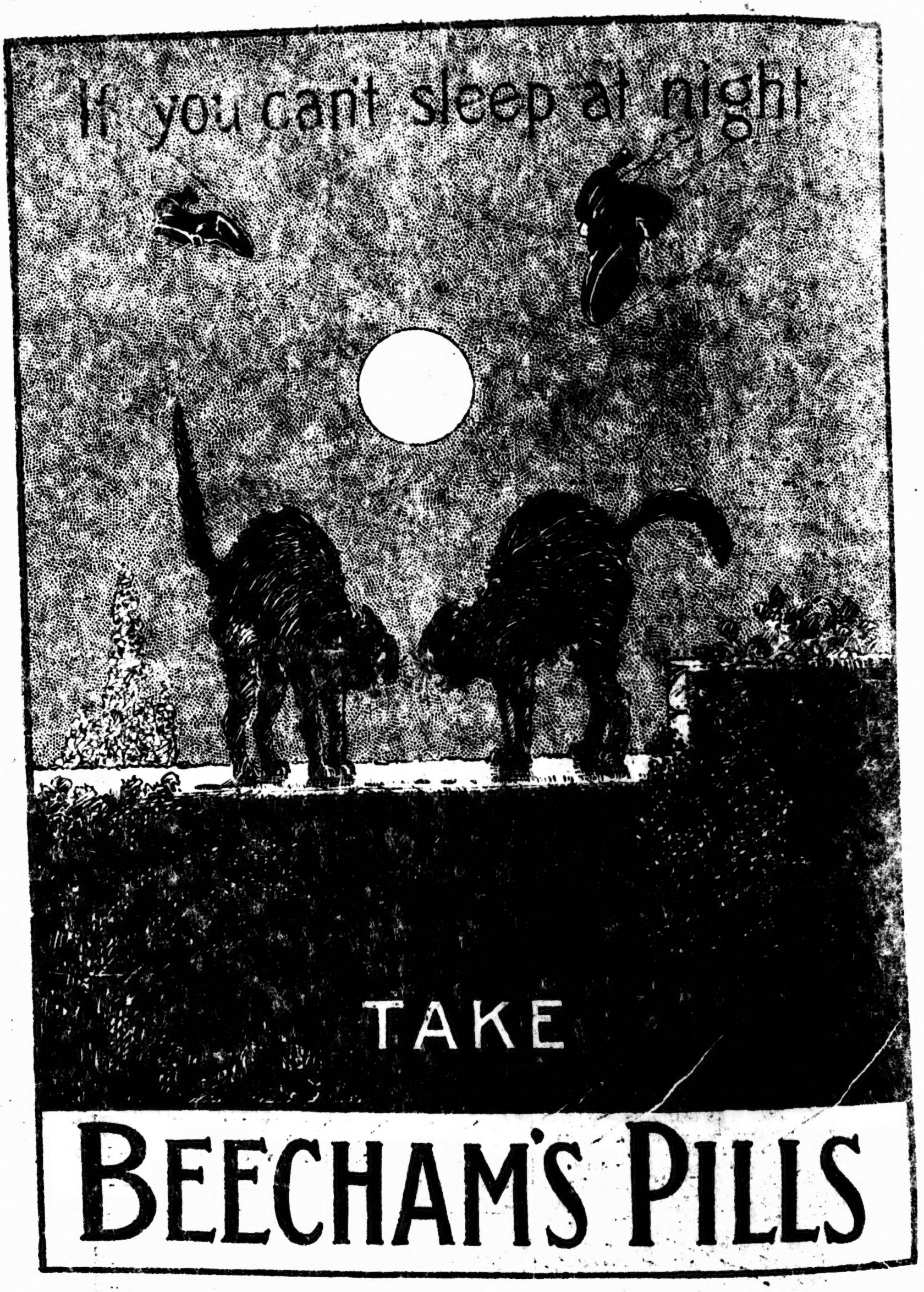
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
65, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....



Printed and Published for the Proprietors (JOHN BULL, LTD.) by ODHAMS LIMITED, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.
Agents for South Africa: Central News Agency, Ltd.
Applications for Advertisement Space in "JOHN BULL" must be made to Messrs. ODHAMS LIMITED (Advertisement Department), 93-94, Long Acre, London, W.C. Telephone: Gerrard 2595.